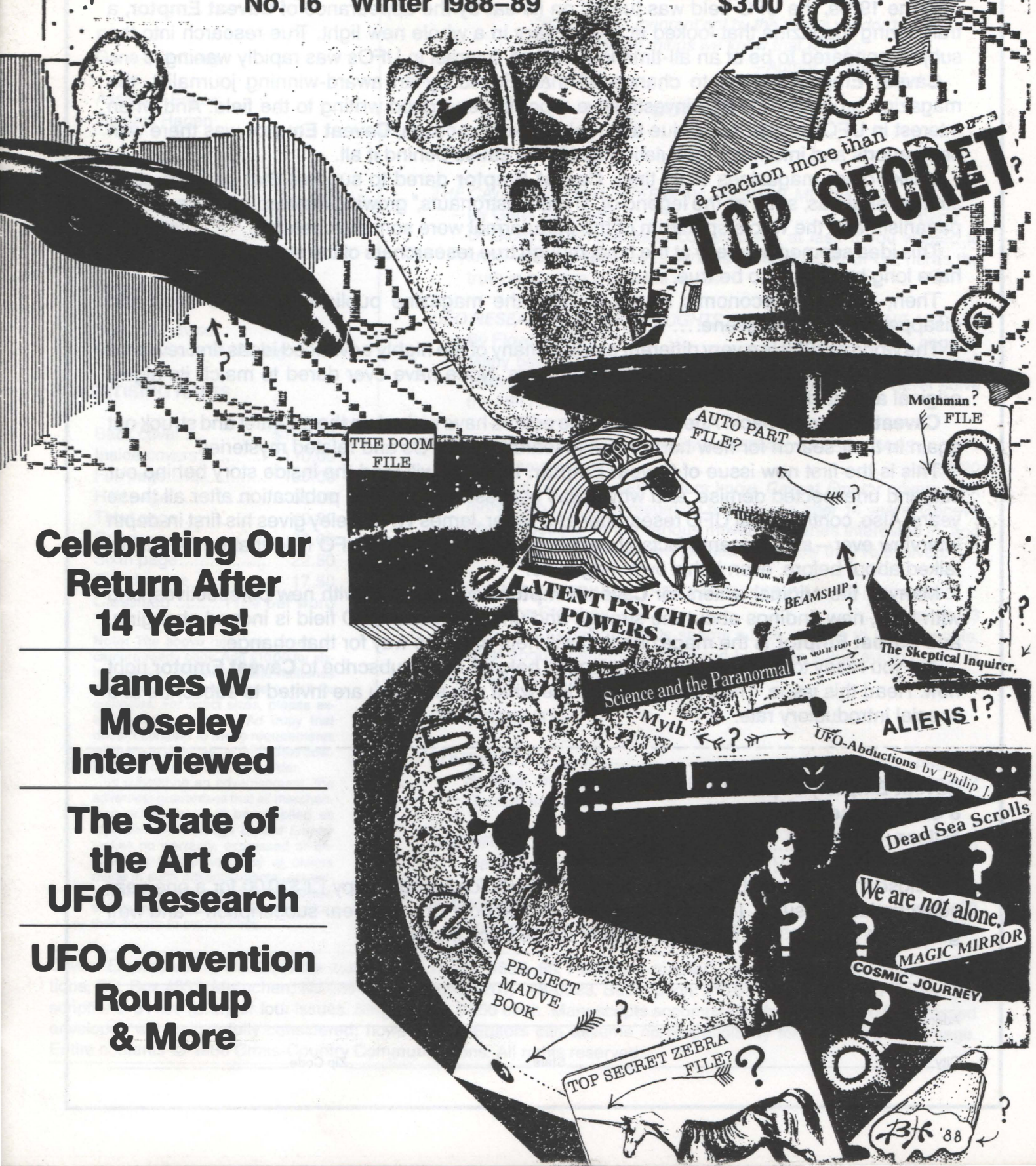


# caveat emptor

No. 16 Winter 1988-89

\$3.00



**Celebrating Our  
Return After  
14 Years!**

**James W.  
Moseley  
Interviewed**

**The State of  
the Art of  
UFO Research**

**UFO Convention  
Roundup  
& More**



# WE'RE BACK!

In the 1970s, the UFO field was turned on its ear by the appearance of **Caveat Emptor**, a trailblazing magazine that looked at the mystery in a whole new light. True research into the subject appeared to be at an all-time low. Indeed, interest in UFOs was rapidly waning.

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Then, during an economic slump in 1974, the magazine published its final issue and disappeared from the scene. . . .

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# caveat emptor

Winter, 1988-89

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*"We are kept ignorant not by the things we don't know, but by the things we know that ain't so."*

—Author Unknown

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## **Editorial:**

# **Birth, Death & Resurrection**

**by Gene Steinberg**

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**If this long-winded diary of our great and glorious history doesn't appeal to you, please turn the page now. As for the rest of you, the best is yet to come.**

---

### **WHAT ARE WE?**

*Caveat Emptor* is a magazine on the strange and unknown. That includes anything from UFOs and the Bermuda Triangle to the world of the occult.

Of course, there have been a lot of those magazines on the market through the years, but we've always prided ourselves on being different.

Unlike some of those other magazines, we don't proclaim any particular offbeat belief as gospel. Instead, we prefer to question those beliefs—let the buyer beware, as it were. We try to separate fact from fancy. Though we take a particularly iconoclastic view of the whole thing, writers are not asked to follow any special party line.

Instead, a writer is requested to adhere to basic journalistic principles in proving a special point of view, or in recounting an event of the paranormal. We insist that the article be carefully researched, and the conclusions thoroughly documented.

We also don't always take ourselves too seriously. So if we poke a bit of fun in a few places, we trust you'll understand. A magazine has to be entertaining as well as informative.

A lot of these precepts will be self-evident in the articles that follow in this issue. As we progress, we'll explain our philosophy further.

For the time being, let it suffice to say that I disbelieve most of the stuff written about UFOs, whatever the source. This is not a put-down on any person or organization. I have counted many of these UFO experts among my friends through the years, and hope to continue to do so. But it doesn't mean I have to agree with what they say.

Saying that, it is quite clear to me that the thousands—perhaps millions—of people who have seen strange craft either in the skies or on the ground are not totally mistaken. True, a large portion of these sightings can be explained conventionally, either as the misidentifi-

cation of a conventional object or phenomenon or as an optical illusion of some sort.

But there is a large residue of events that don't lend themselves to such easy solutions. This is the crux of the UFO mystery as it has stood for decades. As I wrote in the first issue of *Caveat Emptor* some eighteen years ago, there has been little if any concrete progress towards explaining what UFOs are all about.

There is certainly a lot of smoke—a prime example of this in the present day is perhaps the controversy over researcher William Moore and some alleged government documents. These documents supposedly are proof that a UFO from some other world crashed on earth years ago (the infamous "MJ-12" affair), and that the government kept the occupants of that craft on ice.

This same theme has recurred in UFO literature through the years, with little if any evidence that any of it is true. It even once was the basis of a little-known science fiction movie with Robert Carradine (of the acting dynasty) in the starring role. In the film, Carradine portrayed a young rock musician who stumbles upon an incredible government secret that had been kept under wraps for decades: That in the bowels of a long-abandoned military base were the still-living but frozen bodies of spacemen rescued from a crashed spaceship.

The film occasionally turns up on cable television. Damn if I can remember the name!

In any case, if there was any truth to all this, surely some more lethal shred of evidence would have turned up by now. As to the documents themselves: I know Moore only casually. He seems sincere, and it is fair to say that if a hoax is indeed involved, he is probably a victim too.

And then there is the paranormal explanation: UFOs, if they exist at all, are manifestations of a hitherto unknown reality that exists on another plane of existence, perhaps even in our own subconscious minds. There is evidence that a lot of supposedly scientifically-oriented UFO investigators have tended to drift towards this explanation through the years, perhaps because of the frustration of being unable to find another answer, or because the weight of evidence points in that direction.

Others, such as my old friend Allen Greenfield—once one of the most astute writers and theorists on the UFO phenomenon—have finally thrown up their hands in



despair and decided that most if not all of the alleged UFO encounters were mistakes or hoaxes.

It's all very frustrating isn't it?

All this merely serves as an introduction to my viewpoints on the matter, which will be expressed gradually in coming issues.

As to the occult: Surely there are far too many odd things going on to be subject to simple explanations. Whether visions of spirits or a chance feeling that something is about to happen that actually takes place, there are many exciting mysteries in this world of ours that we long to explore.

## WHY ARE WE HERE?

Now, if you're a new reader, you're probably wondering about the fact that this is issue number 16. What about previous issues, you might ask? When were they published and are any still available? You'd probably like to know where we've been to get to where we are.

If you are an old reader, you're probably wondering why we are here at all. Therein lies a tale...

If you are one of our former readers, you know that *Caveat Emptor* ceased publication back in 1974, amid promises of a major expansion and eventual newsstand distribution. Unlike other magazines in our field, we had managed to make good on our plans up till then. When we started publication as a quarterly, we rigorously maintained a regular schedule. When we switched to bi-monthly, we stayed on schedule, unerringly.

Our influence in the UFO and occult fields grew rapidly, as did our readership. The layout and the quality of writing improved, we feel, and we strived to maintain a high standard of journalistic integrity. Although not necessarily profitable, the magazine paid its own way and wasn't a drain on our limited resources.

Yes, everything was going well, and the outlook for the future was bright...

Right off, I'm going to take full blame for what went wrong. Although I feel others must share the guilt for the difficulties that arose, I was responsible for making the final decisions. The advice may have been faulty, but I accepted that advice. The buck stopped here—before all the bucks disappeared that is.

Although—as a professional journalist—I had largely been responsible for editing, publishing and promoting *Caveat Emptor*, my former wife Geneva was the magazine's soul. Her funny, biting commentaries on life in general, and sage editing, helped give the magazine its unique style. Many of the writers who joined us, not only on the staff of the magazine, but as close friends as well, did so largely because of her loving and gentle influence.

Like most marriages, ours had its happy and sad moments. Through the years, we had grown apart—and it seemed as if *Caveat Emptor* was a major force in keeping us together.

The inevitable occurred: We decided to go our separate ways. Despite our separation (and eventual divorce),

Geneva continued to write a regular column for the magazine.

Left to my own devices, I decided to try to fulfill a long-time dream of making my avocation my vocation as well—to turn *Caveat Emptor* into a commercial, newsstand enterprise. I had left my position as News Director for a large, regional radio station, and had hoped that I could now devote full time to the project.

But I couldn't do it alone. I took in a business partner, himself a former award-winning journalist with an art school background. I had hoped to add a further touch of professionalism not only to the layout but to the magazine's content as well.

The final issues of *Caveat Emptor* bear witness to the changes. Geneva continued to work with us, and I feel certain these were the finest issues we had ever published.

As I said, the outlook for the future was bright indeed. It was only a matter of time before the magazine skyrocketed to success, or so we thought...

## THE BEGINNING OF THE END

It was the late spring of 1974: We had a letter from Sammy Paradise of Beaumont, Texas, publisher of *Spaceview* magazine, wondering if we wanted to buy his magazine and mail order business.

My horoscope in a local newspaper at the time warned of the consequences of entering into any contracts with anyone—but I never paid attention to such things. Perhaps the stars could influence one's life in some way, but the purveyors of the art who populated the nation's newspapers were far too general in their advice to be of any interest to me.

Now before proceeding any further, I realize that some of you are wondering why I'm bringing all this to light after so many years. Well, it seems a few people have spread some nasty rumors around about the whole episode. I won't name anyone in particular—they know who they are, and if they bothered to check with me about the facts behind *Caveat Emptor's* unexpected demise, they might have viewed things differently.

Also, in recounting this story, I don't intend to impugn the integrity of Sammy Paradise or any other members of the large cast of characters who participated in this little slice of life. I am sure they were just trying to do their best under the circumstances.

Anyway, several lengthy telephone conversations ensued. My lawyer drew up the appropriate papers, and a check was drawn, payable to Mr. Paradise.

Just days later, and a series of packages arrived air freight from Texas. In these packages were—we were told—all of the relevant material of the affairs of *Spaceview* magazine and Paradise International.

Now for those who are joining us late in the game, let me explain briefly what *Spaceview* was. I guess it was a magazine, in a broad way of speaking. I mean, there were articles on the paranormal in it. It had letters to the editor, a publisher's editorial, and so forth.



Subscribers had to pay money to get it.

But it was really just a glorified catalog, filled with merchandise offerings from both *Spaceview*'s parent company, Paradise International, and from the many advertisers who bought space therein. There was no editorial focus, to be sure. Articles were just filler between the ads, and there were lots of those.

And it didn't take long to find a few flies in the ointment. Perhaps we would have known about these things if we managed to ask the right questions. But we were anxious to get on with making this magazine larger, much larger, and we were hot to trot. Paradise had clearly gotten in over his head, and was looking for a way to bail out.

It seems that a lot of *Spaceview*'s subscribers had come from subscription agencies. Of course there's nothing wrong in building circulation with the help of an agency. For a magazine like *Time* it's an ideal way to add a couple of hundred thousand or so readers to enlarge an advertising rate base, to attract even more money from advertisers. After all, the large magazines make only a small portion of their income from subscribers or single-copy purchasers.

This same isn't true for the small publisher: We don't have the press run to keep per-issue printing costs much below the maximum, and we don't have the circulation to attract big bucks from the major advertiser. Your subscription dollars are our bread-and-butter.

In light of that, we couldn't understand why Sammy Paradise had contracted with agencies to obtain subscriptions for as little as ten cents on the dollar. The money wouldn't even cover the postage, let alone the printing and overhead. He was giving away most of the copies he printed of his magazine, hoping to recoup his losses from advertising income that he wasn't large enough to earn.

Under these circumstances, the conventional wisdom would be to sell short-term introductory subscriptions, to acquaint new readers with the magazine. When the time came for them to renew, they would pay full price, directly to the publisher. That might make sense.

But instead Paradise had accepted hundreds—perhaps thousands—of subscriptions for periods of five years or longer. Faced with the prospect of having to send out all those free magazines for so long—we realized that something had to be done fast to cut our losses.

The first combined issue was costly to print as well as to mail. And a healthy portion of Paradise's subscription list had obsolete addresses. Now the post office won't forward second class mail—used for most magazines—unless the person receiving that magazine agrees in advance to pay the additional postage. If not, the magazine is thrown away—and the label comes back to the publisher (with the new address, if available), postage due!

As we began to assess the full extent of our financial losses, other problems began to emerge: We got a virtual avalanche of complaints from the subscription agencies Paradise dealt with. It seemed that a lot of their customers hadn't received any copies of the magazine. Some of that

was understandable. The last copy of *Spaceview* had appeared many months earlier—it would take a few more weeks before the first combined issue of *Caveat Emptor* got to their mailboxes.

But some of those complaints had come from readers who hadn't received an issue in a year or more—or who never got one at all!

A quick check of Paradise's files showed something amiss: Lots of these names weren't on the mailing list at all. What financial records came with the transaction failed to turn up anything either.

I asked Paradise what was up—he professed not to know, explaining that he had hired clerical workers to deal with such things. He remarked about someone not doing their job properly and having to be fired, but he could shed no other light on the matter.

Our contract with him specifically stated that we were only obligated to fill those subscriptions that were actually included on the mailing lists he had provided us. We didn't know what had happened to all those other waiting subscribers. Our lawyer told us to drop the ball back in his lap: If a *Spaceview* subscriber's name wasn't listed in Paradise's books or on his mailing list, we had no responsibility to that subscriber. It would be up to Paradise himself to explain to the agency the whereabouts of the original order, and what he intended to do about it.

The lawyer wrote a letter to Paradise reminding him of this and other concerns we had. Paradise never bothered to answer that letter—in fact, we never heard from him again.

Along about this time, we began a major campaign to attract new readers—this time at the full subscription price! Unless the cash flow became much greater, we would literally go broke servicing all those subscriptions—both known and unknown.

A local advertising firm was selected to supply a mailing list and mail a four-page brochure about *Caveat Emptor* in its new incarnation—*Strange Worlds*. The new name, we felt, would be more appropriate to the subject matter.

Perhaps we should have checked the source of that mailing list more carefully. The mailing list broker supposedly did that—and assured us that it was an up-to-date listing of folks interested in the paranormal, ripe candidates for our magazine.

When over 20% of the letters we sent came back with incorrect addresses, we realized to our sorrow that the mailing list had gathered dust for quite a long time—naturally the response to the mailing was far less than we had experienced with other direct mail campaigns.

The nail was in the coffin.

## POST MORTEM

*Caveat Emptor* was, to me, like my own child. I carefully nurtured it through its brief life, hoping it would blossom forth as an independent entity. Alas, it was not to be.

The whole episode recounted above pretty well did it for me. There was no money left with which to publish a new issue—then largely edited and set in type. There was no



money available to send refunds to subscribers.

My partner and I had leased thousands of dollars of typesetting and production equipment with which to prepare the magazine. Rather than leave these expensive machines lying useless, we established a small graphic arts agency to service potential clients in our southeastern Pennsylvania market area.

And as the business climate improved, I began to search for an answer to the question of what to do with all those abandoned *Caveat Emptor* and *Spaceview* subscribers.

It was early 1975, and I was still wrestling with the problem. A copy of *Beyond Reality*, a newsstand occult magazine, crossed my desk—and an idea occurred to me.

The magazine's publisher/editor, Harry Belil, was an acquaintance of mine. We had had occasional conversations about the trials and tribulations of the publishing industry in general and how we might cooperate to help our respective magazines grow.

This time it was I who needed the help: I explained the problem to Harry. The following day I drove to his upstate New York home for a meeting.

Harry said yes, he would indeed take over our subscription list, and supply copies of his own magazine as a substitute for *Caveat Emptor*. His next proposition seemed like a dream come true: He wanted me to join him as managing editor. Harry—though a gifted graphic designer who had worked for years at some of New York's major publishing houses—was not in any way a writer. True he was avidly interested in UFOs and the paranormal, but he had relied on others to turn his words into a form suitable for publication.

And yes, many of the articles originally slated for *Caveat Emptor* would soon (and, in fact, did) appear in *Beyond Reality*.

Armed with new hope, I went home and quickly drafted a letter to my impatient subscribers, some of whom had already written me wondering when they'd be getting another issue.

Unfortunately, I forgot an old business axiom here: If something sounds too good to be true, it most likely is!

Harry is the kind of person who likes to seem agreeable. When I got to know him better later on, I actually saw him promise an old friend he met on a street corner that he would become the fellow's business partner in a new venture. Harry was only being polite.

Now perhaps he truly did intend to take over *Caveat Emptor's* subscribers. But *Beyond Reality* was primarily a newsstand publication—and like other small publishers, Harry lived by the advances his distributor would send him based on potential sales. It was a painless process: The printer mailed the magazines right to the distributor, who in turn shipped them direct to warehouses for eventual delivery to your corner newsstand. Only a few hundred issues actually ended up in Harry's hands. The couple of hundred or so subscribers he did have could be serviced relatively easily. His two young sons were glad to help out with the mailing process.

But to have to deal with 6,000 plus subscribers was another matter entirely, as I can attest.

Harry probably had endless nightmares over the days he'd have to spend stuffing envelopes and licking labels before he got cold feet. And some unhappy letters from *Caveat Emptor* readers who had waited months in vain for their magazine clinched it!

So he changed his mind: He would fill the subscriptions—eventually, that is. But for now he'd send out a few hundred copies along with a cover letter. If a lot of readers renewed their subscriptions, he'd invest in some mailing equipment and take over the entire mailing list.

After being given renewed assurances that I had nothing to worry about, I got down to the task of reorganizing the editorial focus of *Beyond Reality*, somewhat in line with what I had envisioned for *Caveat Emptor* before it died. I edited several issues from cover to cover, mostly without credit, and with little pay. Newsstand sales leaped from a mere 20% or so of his total print run to a whopping 40% for a special UFO issue I had put together.

And yet I still got complaints from readers who got more and more indignant over the magazines that never reached their mail boxes.

I learned, accidentally actually, that Harry never kept his promise. He hadn't sent a single issue to my subscribers! I found a couple of hundred issues of *Beyond Reality* secreted away in his home. The magazines were still packed in envelopes with my mailing labels on them. We had a big argument over the matter—and I ended up resigning my position on the magazine. I sadly retrieved the mailing list paraphernalia and looked elsewhere for help.

Eventually, the circulation manager at California's *Probe—The Unknown* magazine acquired the mailing list, and agreed to service all of our remaining subscriptions. The nasty letters stopped coming, and I breathed a sigh of relief.

Of course, that magazine eventually folded too, as did *Beyond Reality* and a host of other magazines that had arisen in the 1970's to latch on to the UFO and occult craze.

## RISING FROM THE ASHES

I was sad and lonely and tired and broke. In the interim, I had sold my interest in that little graphic arts business in Pennsylvania to raise some much needed cash with which to pay bills. I had enough money left to rent a new apartment, buy some groceries and prepare to start a new life.

One of my former *Caveat Emptor* writers, Curt Sutherly, had in the meantime established himself as quite a prolific author on the strange and unknown. His articles had appeared in lots of national magazines, both within and without the field. We had actually envisioned writing a book together, and took a few steps in that direction. But as interest in the paranormal waned, Curt used his vast talents for a more constructive purpose—he got a job at a local newspaper as a reporter.



I continued to write for a time, and even briefly went on the lecture trail to some college campuses as an expert on UFOs and the Bermuda Triangle. At one point I was a sort of back up for my friend Charles Berlitz, the noted author of *The Bermuda Triangle, Without A Trace* and (with co-author William Moore) of *The Philadelphia Experiment*. If they couldn't afford Berlitz's then rather high fee, they called upon me instead. I wasn't famous enough or smart enough to ask for a lot of money.

Eventually that faded out too—I settled down to a relatively normal life with a relatively normal job. And I remarried too (eventually we had a son), so it appeared as if my life would never again be tainted by the UFO disease.

I have since learned that one does not give up UFO research so easily. A casual interest in the subject remained, and I continued to read the literature that still stuffed my mail box. The gossipy tongue-in-cheek approach taken by Jim Moseley in his *Saucer Smear* appealed especially to me—it reminded me a bit of what I used to do in *Caveat Emptor*. Then again, as one of my closest friends in this crazy world, Jim likely influenced me a lot too.

As the painful past receded through the years, I had passing thoughts of getting involved again as a writer or even as an editor of a new magazine.

It is 1988: I read about an underground publisher in another field entirely whose magazine had died, but had arisen again, after five years. Something about his editorial approach in the magazine struck a chord. I dug out my old issues of *Caveat Emptor* (I actually don't even have a complete set of them anymore), and the wheels started to turn.

Some letters and phone conversations ensued. Before I could do the outlandish and revive the magazine, I had to have help, and so I wrote and telephoned many of my original writers to see what they thought of this crazy idea!

The result stands before you: Although we once planned otherwise, we're not changing the title. Good or bad, *Caveat Emptor* is what it will be. Also, we're not going to appear bi-monthly just yet. The magazine began its short life as a quarterly, and will appear again every three months. The reception it gets from you readers will dictate whether it appears more frequently—or ever again!

Before I could deal with the future, I had to face the past again—this article serves as a sort of catharsis. It has helped to remind me of what went wrong and, more importantly, what I did that was right and to use that knowledge so that I will not make the same mistakes again.

Of course the world in the late 1980's is a very different place from the one that existed in 1974, when *Caveat Emptor* last appeared. A lot of adjustments will be necessary, of course, for us to confront an uncertain future. But we intend to build on past successes first—so this issue probably looks very much like the ones we published years ago, and that has been done deliberately. The material we publish will be the same eclectic blend of UFOlogy, the paranormal and paganism that typified our original

outlook. We'll even deal with other subjects of a more conventional nature, such as my review of the world of high-end audio elsewhere in this issue.

But our main focus will be on the changes in the fields that comprise our primary interest, and how those changes will make us face the future with more confidence and with the knowledge that will truly help us come to grips with the strange world of the unknown.

• • •

## PERSONAL NOTES...

On a recent business trip to California, I had the pleasure of visiting with Vicki Cooper, editor of *California UFO* magazine. Vicki's a bright, attractive young lady who is truly dedicated to research into UFOs and the many related enigmas of our time.

The magazine itself treads a narrow line between the scientific aspects of UFO investigation and the contactee cults. They are quite often criticized by both factions as a result, which is to be expected. The layout and writing style is quite like a news magazine, and if there is any large newsstand magazine that it resembles at all in its approach, I would select *U.S. News and World Report*.

Vicki herself is a trained journalist who at this point believes firmly that the government or someone is conspiring to keep researchers from getting authentic UFO information.

The magazine costs \$3.00 per copy or \$18.00 for six issues and is available from: 1800 S. Robertson Blvd., Box 355, Los Angeles, CA 90035.

By the way, I do apologize for foisting some of my high-end audio sensibilities upon Vicki. After I hooked up my portable CD player into her stereo system, she declared that she was thoroughly spoiled now and must acquire one of the little contraptions herself right away.

• • •

Developments with our newly-incarnated magazine are happening thick and fast. The first word of *Caveat Emptor's* return resulted in lots of subscriptions—at least based on the limited scale of the publicity—and some very encouraging letters. Since we're not in the business of filling up a letters column with endless praise—it inflates one's ego too much—we'll await more weighty responses, which will appear in our next issue.

Our glorious Spring issue (due out in March) will feature a rare interview with UFO and occult researcher Brad Steiger. Though Brad was an early reader of *Caveat Emptor* and we had exchanged occasional letters, I had not met him before.

Thanks to Tim Beckley, editor of *UFO Universe*, *UFO Review* and lots of books on the paranormal, the interview with Steiger was arranged on very short notice. Tim also provided the tape recorder and a tape cassette. —G.S.



# **The Caveat Emptor Interview:**

## **James W. Moseley**

**by Gene Steinberg**

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### **The UFO field's arch-prankster reveals that there's more than meets the eye to his approach and beliefs.**

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James W. Moseley is perhaps one of the most controversial figures in the UFO field. Some label him nothing more than a cynical prankster with no real interest in the subject. Others feel he is genuinely interested in the possibility that UFOs are real in some way, but that he likes to have fun too!

Moseley first became interested in UFOs in the early 1950's, when he began a research project with the expectation of eventually writing a book. The book never materialized, but his country-wide trek in search of the truth about the strange discs in our skies led him to found his own magazine.

Nexus (later renamed Saucer News) began publication in 1954. Unlike earlier magazines, which consisted largely of an assemblage of sighting reports and some speculation, Moseley's sense of humor was well in evidence throughout the pages of his publication. At first this sense of humor contributed to a series of parodies of beliefs and attitudes in the field. When readers failed to understand that these were satires—many in fact took them quite seriously—Moseley decided to express this sense of humor in more subtle ways, with the able cooperation of his friend, Gray Barker.

There ensued years of fake feuds and some notable hoaxes that are described in more detail in the following interview. Some of these facts are revealed here for the first time.

Moseley, by the way, is a genuine American blue-blood. His mother was the heir to a large steamship line fortune. His father was Major General George Van Horn Moseley, a deputy chief of staff for the U.S. Army (under General MacArthur) during the 1930's, and a well-known conservative politically.

In addition to his pursuits of the strange and unknown, Moseley is deeply interested in South American antiques. In fact, during the 1950's, Moseley imported art objects from South America to this country, and at present runs a small antique shop in Key West, Florida.

Moseley is editor and publisher of Saucer Smear, a non-scheduled newsletter that is reminiscent of the original Saucer News, though without feature articles. The newsletter is sent to a small group of specially-selected readers that Moseley labels "non-subscribers."

I first met Moseley in 1960. I was a high school student and living in Brooklyn, New York. Once or twice a week I visited the Samuel Weiser occult bookstore in Manhattan, and spent my allowance on another UFO or paranormal book or magazine. During one of those trips, I chanced upon a copy of Saucer News, and read it eagerly. Soon I was corresponding with its editor, Jim Moseley.

When Moseley began to sponsor a series of monthly lectures in New York some years later, I was a member of the local committee he organized to handle convention booking and publicity. When Saucer News became so large that Moseley could no longer do all the work himself, I joined his staff as managing editor. I held that position until I entered broadcasting and moved from New York.

It's difficult to be objective about someone who's been a friend for nearly 30 years, and I won't make any pretense that the interview you are about to read is an interrogation of any kind. Besides, Jim needs little prompting to say just what's on his mind.

**GENE STEINBERG:** There are a lot of people in the UFO field who say that Jim Moseley is just a cynical prankster who perpetrates all kinds of hoaxes in the field, and that he has no real serious interest in the subject, except to get his kicks out of it. What's your reaction?

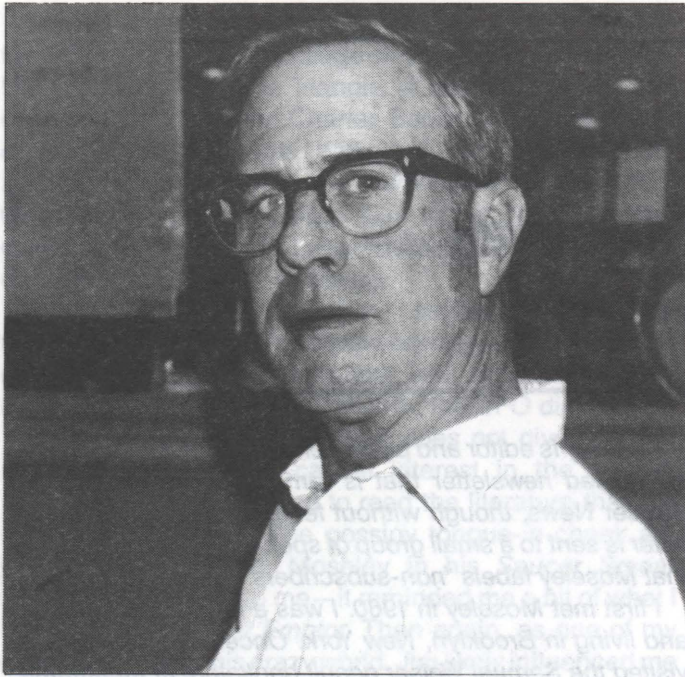
**JAMES W. MOSELEY:** Well, the hoaxes that I was involved with were with Gray Barker about 25 years ago and more, and they've been discussed and confessed in Saucer Smear, my current magazine. And I guess in that sense I am more serious now than I was then.

I still like to enjoy myself and I still get a kick out of the foibles of human nature, and there are certainly enough foibles in the UFO field to keep anybody happy that has a sense of humor.

**STEINBERG:** Why attack the subject that way, since it apparently is so serious and already there's enough difficulty in getting serious people interested in the subject? Why perpetrate hoaxes?

**MOSELEY:** No, I think that I perform a function that





nobody else in the field performs. In fact, I know I do, because there are plenty of magazines that deal, let's say, just with sightings. There are other magazines that deal with contacts, ouija board experiences, anything you can name, but there is no other magazine like mine and there's no one that takes my point of view, so I perform a unique service, in my opinion.

**STEINBERG:** *Saucer Smear is a magazine that goes to the so-called elite in the UFO field. It's not something available for general circulation. Since Caveat Emptor is a general circulation magazine, it is going to reach readers who would not have access to your publication, which might be likened to a tip sheet. It goes to a select few in the field.*

*Could you describe what your publication is, what kind of information it has and how you happened to start it up?*

**MOSELEY:** Well, the magazine that I publish now is a successor to a more serious magazine that I used to publish in the 50's and 60's, as you know, and I started it up in 1976. I had a gap of about six years between the two magazines.

And I got back into it that way because I think it represented my real personality and the magazine as it's finally evolved is really just in two parts: Editorials by me on current subjects in the field, personality-type subjects, and then letters to the editors, which is the feedback of the readers from what I have said previously, in previous issues.

My readership starts, as you've said, with a hard core of so-called elite in the field, people who are the leaders in the field, and the reason, by the way, that I don't charge for the magazine is that most of the people that I would like to have read it would consider themselves too important to pay for it. So, since I don't charge them I don't charge anybody else, and so in addition to this hard core, over a period of time people hear about it. If they seem to have a reasonable reason, I put them on the mailing list, but it's

not for everybody, first because I don't want the list to be too long since it is free and I'm paying for it and, number two, I don't think my brand of humor or whatever is acceptable to an awful lot of people. So those people just don't get it.

**STEINBERG:** *Let's go back to the early years of UFO research. How did you get active in the subject?*

**MOSELEY:** Well, in 1953 I met a professional writer named Ken Krippine, that I don't even think you've heard of, and he was an adventure story writer. He got me interested in writing a book on saucers. And so under his auspices I made a trip around the country, and I interviewed, oh, dozens and dozens of people who were at that time the most well-known figures, the contactees and a few scientists, a great number of saucer sighters and so forth, and I got reams of notes on this.

In the long run, I didn't write the book for various reasons, but I used a lot of that information to start *Saucer News* and then I went on from there.

**STEINBERG:** *When did you first meet Gray Barker?*

**MOSELEY:** In 1953.

**STEINBERG:** *Under the research project?*

**MOSELEY:** Yes. It was during a part of my trip. I went out to California by one route and came back by another, and I think about the last place I reached before coming home was Clarksburg, West Virginia, the home of Barker. And from that first meeting, we became very good friends, which lasted over a period of 30 some years until he died.

**STEINBERG:** *In the mid-1950's through the 1960s, Jim Moseley and Gray Barker had an infamous feud. How was this plot hatched?*

**MOSELEY:** Well, it was just an evolution of our friendship, I guess, to increase reader interest in each of our magazines. He had *The Saucerian* and I had *Saucer News*, and we thought we could have some fun and make people more interested in attacking each other. I think pretty much like Jack Benny and what's his name, yeah, Fred Allen.

**STEINBERG:** *So in a sense Gray Barker and Jim Moseley were the Jack Benny and Fred Allen of the UFO field.*

**MOSELEY:** It might well be. He, however, I would say, pretended to be serious, although he at all times was less serious than I was. His fans did not realize that, by and large, he didn't believe a word he printed, even in those days.

**STEINBERG:** *Did Gray Barker really believe in UFOs at all?*

**MOSELEY:** I think he did at the very beginning, when he got involved with Albert K. Bender. Of course, as you know, that ended up in his writing his only real published book, by any real publisher [other than himself—Editor], *They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers* [University Books, 1956].

But, anyway, after he became disillusioned with Bender, after he realized, I think partly at my urging, that Bender may have had an emotional problem of some sort and that none of these things had really happened to him that way, I think he became disillusioned at that point, and that was very early in the game. And I think after that he just



enjoyed it and went into it for fun and profit.

**STEINBERG:** *Now what was the most famous hoax that you and Gray Barker perpetrated?*

**MOSELEY:** Well, the only really famous hoax was the Straith letter, having to do with George Adamski [a well-known contactee of the early saucer era], and I always thought people would never suspect me of being involved in that because I had written a very carefully researched expose of George Adamski.

Barker in particular thought that the so-called nuts in the field, of whom he assumed Adamski to be one, should be encouraged rather than discouraged in order to keep things going. So one evening we were drinking quite a bit down in Clarksburg and we hatched this idea. Actually we wrote the Straith letter and we wrote four or five other letters to different researchers at the same time.

And they were written by him on his typewriter and I watched and my main participation was that I mailed them from Washington, D.C. on my way back to New Jersey.

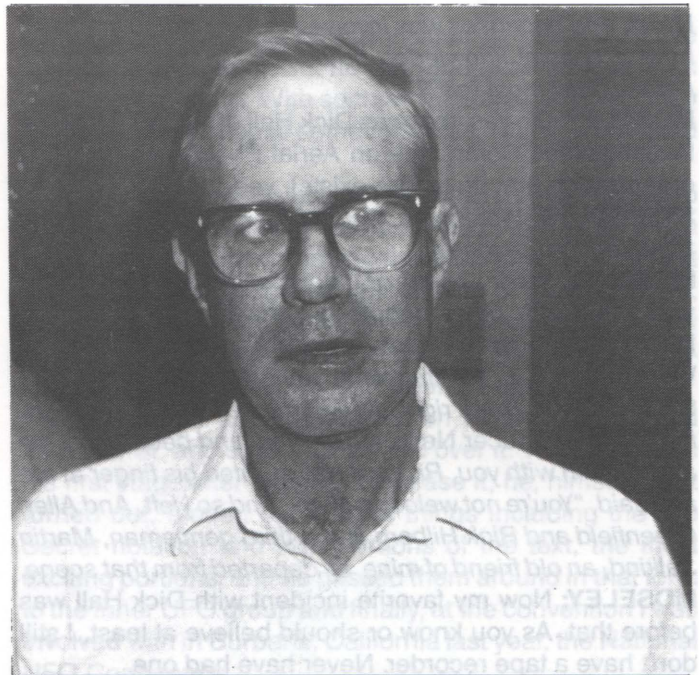
The Straith letter was on State Department stationery and it said, in effect, I remember it began "My Dear Professor." And anyone studying styles, by the way, as people are doing now with the "MJ-12" document, would know immediately that that was Barker's style. He always started out a letter "My Dear So-and-So." It was just transparently obvious that he wrote it.

But anyway, the letter went on to say that this mythical man, Mr. R.E. Straith at the State Department was aware that some people there in the State Department thought that Adamski was on the right track and sympathized with him and wanted to encourage him but, of course, they would have to stay relatively quiet because they were a minority and they didn't want to contradict the policy of the State Department.

Now I don't have the actual text of the letter anymore, but that's roughly the gist of it. It was signed, "R.E. Straith, Cultural Exchange Committee," which didn't exist. We deliberately chose a title that didn't exist.

And the fun was that this letter could not be killed. George Adamski certainly didn't say it was a hoax after he got it. He was very pleased to receive it. And when an investigation eventually developed of the Straith letter, at least a couple of times people from the FBI came to Adamski and told him that the thing was a fake, and to quit publicizing it. And he just wouldn't quit and got them very upset. All of these documents, by the way, have been released later through the Freedom of Information Act and some of them have been sent to me by various people over the years.

So anyway the Straith letter had a life of its own and nothing could kill it. People would write to the State Department and address their letter to R.E. Straith, and his mail was always signed for by somebody else, and through what I call "saucer logic," these people reasoned, "Well, he must be there or they wouldn't sign the letter. They'd send it back." But of course they would sign for it whether he was there or not, whether he existed or not.



But they didn't look at it that way. Everybody has a conspiratorial attitude in this field.

**STEINBERG:** *The mail was received by the receptionist, who probably signs for anything.*

**MOSELEY:** Well, different people signed, and if they phoned, they'd say, "Well, he isn't here now, but I'll put you on with Mr. So-and-So, and he'll be glad to discuss the same thing with you." So no one ever got through to Straith, but they never got turned away.

**STEINBERG:** *Now, very shortly thereafter, a lot of people in the UFO field realized who the perpetrators of that hoax were, especially due to the classic Gray Barker style of the letter, not only the introduction to the letter, but also the phraseology used therein. What was your reaction to that and did you feel there might be a problem with the FBI because of the use of that stationery?*

**MOSELEY:** Well, the FBI came and talked to Barker once and they never came to me, but they were in an investigation of a very low key for quite a while.

Now the stationery came from a man whom I still won't identify, because he's still alive and might be embarrassed by it, but his father had a job in the State Department at the time and he simply picked up a whole lot of stationery. One piece was from the State Department, another was from the U.S. Information Agency, and each piece was different. He brought us a whole group of different kinds of stationery that we could choose from. So that was the big mystery there.

The reason that the FBI took the whole thing seriously, and I don't blame them in a way, is that other people who were less gentle about such things could use the stationery to do something really dangerous or against the national interest, rather than for writing silly letters, which is what we did.

**STEINBERG:** *Now later on during the history of Saucer*



News, and because I was involved in this particular affair, I have a special knowledge of it... do you remember the phrase "Hall must fall!"?

**MOSELEY:** Oh yes, that was Dick Hall of NICAP [National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, a UFO organization that no longer exists], yes.

**STEINBERG:** Would you recount for us the episode that triggered that phrase?

**MOSELEY:** Well, I never got along with Dick Hall. Didn't you and some other people go one time in person to NICAP headquarters when they had a decent office in Washington, D.C.? Is that what you are talking about?

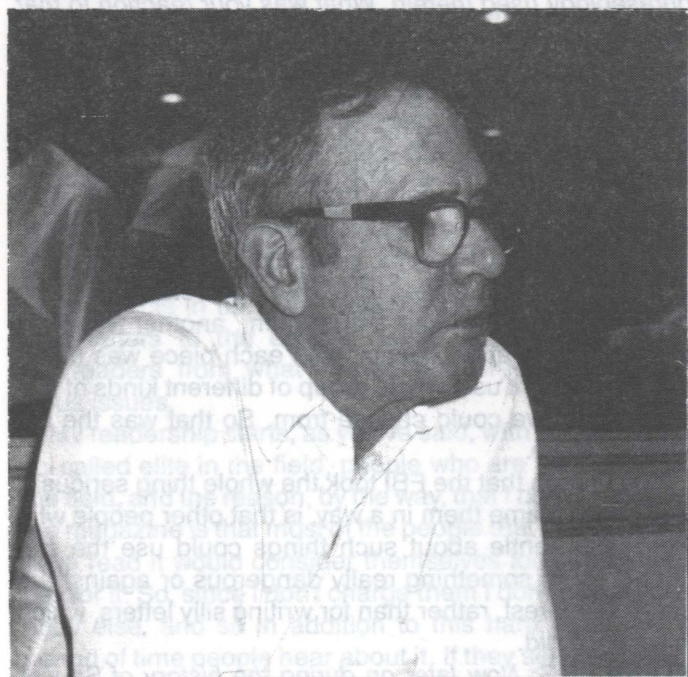
**STEINBERG:** That's right. And because I was the managing editor of *Saucer News* at the time, and because of my association with you, Richard Hall pointed his finger at me and said, "You're not welcome here." And so I left. And Allen Greenfield and Rick Hilberg and a third gentleman, Martin Salkind, an old friend of mine, all departed from that scene.

**MOSELEY:** Now my favorite incident with Dick Hall was before that. As you know or should believe at least, I still don't have a tape recorder. Never have had one.

Well, what happened was, something had come up that I called Dick Hall about, something that I had written in *Saucer News* I suppose. And I called him at the NICAP office, and he accused me of taping the conversation, as you're doing now. And I screamed "You're paranoid!" and I hung up.

And that is one of the last times I ever spoke with Dick Hall, and that's over 20 years ago. I have seen him once at a saucer convention and I said hello, and he said hello. Now I guess that would mean, yes, we had spoken. We didn't really get beyond that. So I think it's fair to say that we still don't like each other.

**STEINBERG:** I do recall meeting Dick Hall at a convention of the Fortean Society back in the early 1970's, I believe, and



he seemed to take it at that point with somewhat of a feeling of good humor. He was not in any way rude to me, or the people in my party at the time. In fact, he was rather cordial. Again I saw him at the convention in Fort Smith, Arkansas in 1975, and, once again, there appeared to be no expression of ill will whatsoever.

**MOSELEY:** Well, as I said, I only ran into him that one time, but my feeling about him, and it's true of several other saucer people that I don't get along with: They're so damned serious, they take themselves too seriously. There's nothing wrong with that. But a lot of these people simply take themselves too seriously and that's again why I think I perform a function.

Actually, as you probably realize as I did not, deep in my heart, I probably did not care whether I got back into NICAP or not.

Incidentally, to bring this thing up to date here, Gene, it's quite possible that, almost any day now, I might be thrown out of MUFON [Mutual UFO Network].

Now MUFON was founded in 1969, I believe, although some say '70 or '71. But anyway, it's been around for a long time, and I was never invited to join MUFON at all. There were a number of the old NICAP people in MUFON who didn't want me in and, finally, about two years ago, I made a special effort to make friends with MUFON head Walt Andrus, and there's a story there too.

Perhaps we might be better off not telling it at this stage. But anyway he decided to let me in, based on, by the way, and he would admit this, the reason he finally let me in was because I told him a story originally attributed to President Johnson in the 1960's. The punch line was, he felt he would rather have someone inside the tent pissing out than outside the tent pissing in. And I understand how Andrus could feel that way about me.

However, now that I'm inside the tent, I have continued pissing all over the place, and there's a thing going on right now about the Gulf Breeze case, which has Walt very upset. He fired one of his state directors just a few days ago [late July, 1988], named Bob Boyd, who was the state director for Alabama. Anyway, he was just fired summarily because he was very vocal in his opposition to Gulf Breeze. And of course Andrus knows I don't believe in Gulf Breeze. I've made some sarcastic remarks in just about every issue of *Saucer Smear* about it. So I may end up out in the cold again.

The point is, to me it's a game. These clubs are a game. It's grown men playing, in a way, a sort of childish game, an ego-tripping game and so forth. And if I get kicked out, I'll just scream again till they let me back in or whatever, but I won't take it too seriously.

**STEINBERG:** Let's talk about Gulf Breeze for a moment. Would you acquaint our readers with some of the facts of that case?

**MOSELEY:** Well, I have not followed up on each of its intricate details, like some of these people have. Gulf Breeze is a little town near Tallahassee, Florida. A group of sightings started there back, I believe, late last year, and



continued through approximately May of this year. Most of them centered around a man named "Mr. Ed." His name has not been given out officially to the public yet. He's a local businessman there, appears to be married and have some children, a fairly normal life. But there are rumors also that he's something of a joker.

Anyway, he has managed on, oh, a couple of dozen occasions, or more, to take night photographs of UFOs. Some of them are taken with a Polaroid; I believe some of the later ones were taken with other cameras. He's had all kinds of UFO experiences. There are reams of material on this. Important UFO people from around the country have come down to interview him, including Walt Andrus himself. The state director, a man named Weir, is very much taken by this case, as is Andrus. Budd Hopkins has been there, and there are rumors of some kind of book coming out on this. And it is a classic case, whatever else it may be.

There are some, however, who think the pictures look phony, and that there are holes in the story, and that Mr. Ed doesn't have a very stable reputation, despite being a leading citizen, etc. And so pages and pages have been written up on both sides of this, but it's sort of split MUFON down the middle.

My gut feeling is that it's a hoax, and a pretty horrible one, but I simply cannot prove it, any more than they can prove that it is not.

**STEINBERG:** *Let's go on to other controversial cases for the moment. How about the MJ-12 affair? Would you first explain what it is for those who've tuned in late, and then your feeling about it?*

**MOSELEY:** All right. Well, MJ-12, or "Majestic 12" is the name given to an alleged group in the government that was formed roughly 1953 or thereabouts, and came out with a document, a presidential briefing document for Dwight Eisenhower when he first became president, bringing him up to date supposedly on the situation regarding UFOs.

Now, it's a long story. In the document they admit that there was a crash at Roswell, New Mexico and that the bodies of four dead aliens were found. And then they go on and say that the technology involved is not fully understood, that it seems quite obvious that this craft was from another planet and so forth. And in the document the 12 men are named. Among those men was Dr. Donald Menzel, whom we know very well as an anti-saucer professor from Harvard who wrote anti-saucer books. And if we believe this document, he was one of the 12 men who were in on this crash and investigated it personally.

That is one of the things from my mind that make it very hard to believe the document is genuine.

Another person, in fact "MJ-1," the leader of the group, was Vice Admiral R.H. Hillenkoetter, of the Navy. Now the interesting thing about him was that he joined NICAP for a while, on their board of governors. Again strange conduct for a man with this intimate, inside, top secret knowledge of the crash. Why join a group that's trying to find out about sightings when you know the inside story? Of course,

somebody will say that he was infiltrating, keeping an eye on them and so forth, but he was kind of an obvious man to put on the board. With such an infiltration in mind, they would certainly choose somebody else, I think, who would be less obvious.

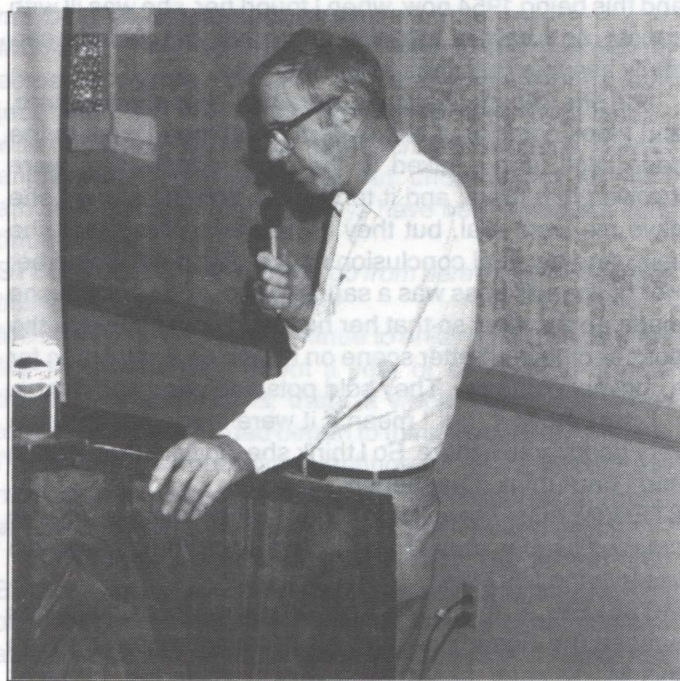
So this document is supposed to have been slipped to UFO researcher William Moore in 1985. And it took him a while to get around to making it public. Now he didn't get the document itself, he got a microfilm of the document, and that's handy for him in a way because, if you don't have the paper to examine, you can't get as much information from microfilm as you can from the document itself.

And, another aspect here: When Moore got it, it had "Top Secret" and such stamped all over it. Well, Moore, in his first stage after starting to release it, he, himself, as it turned out, blotted out a lot of things including the Top Secret notation and also portions of the text, the most exciting portions, and he passed them around in that form to the inner UFO group and finally, at the convention I was involved with in Burbank, California last year, the National UFO Conference.

And he, fortunately for my ego, I guess, chose that opportunity to really make a big stink with the press about this document and a couple of other documents that go with it.

And I would say this: If it were genuine, by now somebody, in spite of Phil Klass or in spite of any other negative person, somebody in the media would have picked up on this, because this would be the greatest story of all time, if it were true. Actually, they even got on ABC's "Nightline" one time, Stanton Friedman and Philip Klass, arguing about the MJ-12 document. So you can't get a better exposure than that.

And Klass quite rightly said as part of his spiel on "Nightline," in effect, if anyone is listening in here from the media





that thinks there's something to this, by all means dig it out, do anything they can because this is the story of the century. Well, that's quite a while ago—that program—and nothing has come of it. Apparently most of the media think it's nonsense and that the ones who have looked into it find that they don't find it acceptable, or real.

And I fear that is the answer. Someone has pulled a far greater hoax, a more serious hoax, I think, than the Straith letter. And I don't know who it is, but it probably isn't Moore himself, although Klass thinks so, but someone did it and that's where it stands.

**STEINBERG:** *Back in your early days of UFO research, you ran across rumors of so-called crashed flying saucers, especially at Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio. Would you briefly recount the rumors that you checked out then?*

**MOSELEY:** No, you're talking about the "Wrong Field Story," as I call it. That's the title story of a book written in my name by Gray Barker. The incident took place at Columbus Air Force Base, which is not Wright Field at all. And it was in 1952 or 1953.

There was a woman working there, a civilian employee of the Air Force, and she was in some kind of classified, coded work in the code room. And she claimed that some messages came through indicating a Red Alert having to do with the possibility that UFOs might attack the base or were cruising in the vicinity of the base and so forth. That kind of thing. She also claimed that, in the photo lab, she saw actual photographs of a crashed UFO that had been brought to the base.

And I went to a great deal of trouble—I was trying to be serious in those days—and I tracked her down. The people in the field that knew who she was didn't want to tell me, I guess because they thought that I was a joker or something, but I did find her finally. She was in Miami, Florida at the time. She had retired from Air Force work, and this being 1954 now, when I found her, she was ill with cancer, so I haven't followed up on her, but we can certainly assume that she's long dead now.

And she told me the same story that I heard elsewhere, and I took notes on it and so forth. And then I went to the base itself, and I talked to the other people who were involved in it there, and it turned out that the names she gave me were real, but they denied everything that she said. And my final conclusion on it at this point would be: Her husband's boss was a saucer freak, and I believe she made up the story so that her husband could impress the boss and have a better scene on his job as a salesman for a cookery company. They sold pots and pans and things.

I can't prove it, but I mean if it were made up, there's a very good motive there. So I think she did it for that reason and I don't think it happened.

**STEINBERG:** *There have been other rumors of this crashed saucer, these rumors have occurred through the years in the UFO field.*

**MOSELEY:** At the same time, William Moore, who has pushed the Roswell case in his book and again through this MJ-12 case, has done a very credible job. I haven't

read all of it, but his summary runs probably 20 pages, and he's taken the original Frank Scully story from *Behind the Flying Saucers*, which was published back in 1950, and he's shown, in his opinion at least, that every one of these crash rumors of the early days—except Roswell—can be assumed to be an evolution in various forms of the Scully story. And that the Scully story itself had no basis in fact.

I think it's very important to realize that the MJ-12 document—this key briefing document that I was talking about earlier—says exactly what Moore had said before he ever saw it. The only crash that they mention is Roswell. So it's extremely convenient or, of course, it could just be true. But it's awfully convenient for Moore that he happened to receive it, and that it perfectly backs up what he had said before. And I find that rather amazing.

**STEINBERG:** *Then, if a hoax is involved here, perhaps the perpetrator of the hoax was aware who the recipient of the hoax document would be, and tailored it to his requirements.*

**MOSELEY:** Exactly. As I say, I disagree with Klass. I don't think Moore did this himself. I've spent a lot of time with Moore and we've talked on a very intimate level, you might say, about our personal problems and other things, and I feel I know him fairly well. I think he's a victim, not a perpetrator. Someone is putting him on and has had him running in circles for a number of years now.

Some of the information he has gotten is absolutely ludicrous, by the way. Not only have I read these documents, which anybody can read, but he at one point gave me the privilege, and I don't mean that sarcastically, because I think I was only the first or second outsider that was able to see these tapes. He had some videotapes out there, which I saw at the home of his other co-worker, Jaime Shandera. And these tapes involved a supposed government informant, sitting with his back to the camera. You had his voice scrambled in a very sophisticated way, so no unscrambler could ever unscramble it, and then there's a person who you don't see either, reading questions to him. And this guy is answering.

And some of the things that they go into there are pretty far out: The aliens have been watching us for 25,000 years and so forth. But the thing that stuck in my mind I'm revealing in your magazine for the first time, because I have not printed it in mine. Moore asked me not to print it, and I'm not printing it, but you can, I suppose.

It has to do with the Sermon on the Mount. It is claimed, essentially, that Christ was a space man and his fellow space beings followed his career on Earth, throughout. So they presumably took some three- or four-dimensional movies of the key events in Christ's life, and these movies are still available somewhere.

There are rumors of some people in the UFO field having seen this movie, but I have never been able to pin down a person who actually has seen it. But the point is, the movie is discussed in one of these tapes.

I find that kind of information rather ludicrous myself, and I think that it does not help Moore's case. I would have



had more feeling in favor of MJ-12 if he had never shown me the tapes.

Jerome Clark, the editor of *Fate*, saw the tapes and had a much more favorable impression. That speaks something or other for Jerry Clark.

**STEINBERG:** *Let's amplify that statement about Jerry Clark. Is that a skepticism about his gullibility here?*

**MOSELEY:** I don't dislike Jerry Clark, although he and I have had skirmishes. And as you and your readers know, he's come up in the world. In addition to editing *Fate*, he's also editor of the *International UFO Reporter*, so he's quite a wheel in the field. But, even now, being less gullible than he was when he was younger, he still tends to be rather gullible, I fear. And I think he was more impressed by the tapes than I was.

**STEINBERG:** *What documents or what evidence do you feel exists in the UFO field—if there is such evidence—that would indicate to you that something real is going on?*

**MOSELEY:** Well, real, that's the question. Something real is going on. There is a UFO field in the sense of a sociological thing. That no one can deny, even Phil Klass won't deny that. We've got 40 years of people investigating these things and there is a cult, if you like—a folkloric book could be written on this I'm sure—and a few serious sociologists have taken an interest in the field. So there is that much going on.

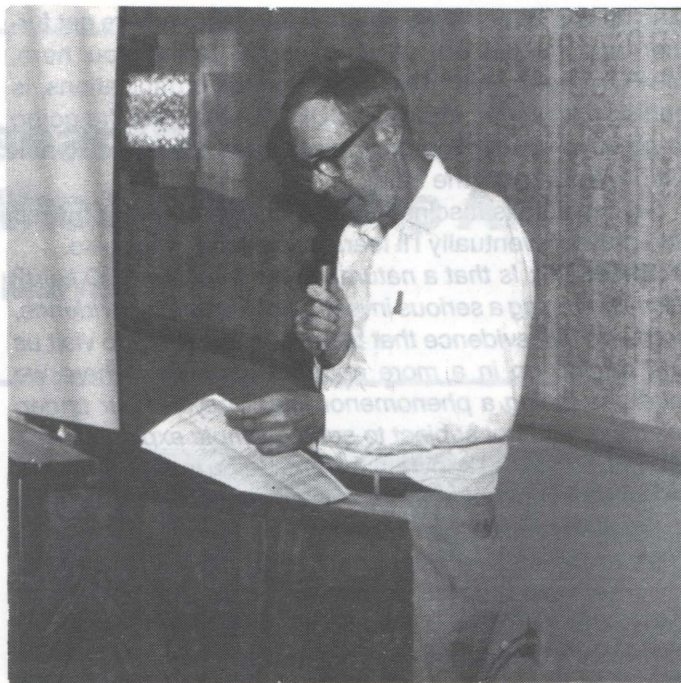
Now what are these people seeing? The only thing we can say for sure is that some of them appear to be unknowns. We don't know what they are. Then people theorize, and as far as I'm concerned, you can't go beyond theory. If you prefer space people from another planet, you can find evidence for that. If you prefer some other theory, you can find evidence for that. If you choose to be a skeptic, you are not in any difficulty whatsoever, because there isn't a shred of absolute proof that anything unusual is going on, and yet it seems like there is.

My opinion at this point: If there is something going on, it is beyond our current understanding and probably will continue to be for some time to come.

**STEINBERG:** *Do you mean being beyond our understanding by a deliberate act on the part of whatever is generating this phenomenon or simply because it is beyond our understanding in a natural sense?*

**MOSELEY:** Well, I can't really answer that, but I know this: I've had experiences, probably you have too. I guess everyone in the field has, and I guess millions of people not in the field have had some time in their life either a psychic event—of course that overlaps very much—or a UFO event, or some one or more things that they could not explain.

But in 99.9% of these events, the person is alone, the person has no way of proving it to himself or to his family or his friends. I'm sure if people like him they'll believe him. If they don't like him they won't. There appears to be no distinction between gender or races either. These types of events apparently cannot be proven in a scientific way at our present level of science. They happen, but they are



unprovable and unproven, and whether they are designed to be that way, or just end up that way, I do not know.

That's a good answer, by the way.

**STEINBERG:** *By the way, Jim Moseley is beginning to sound like a person who has a real serious interest in UFOs, and that he's not just a prankster, which was the question we posed at the beginning of this interview. Perhaps we can explore this more deeply, this facet of your personality. How do you account for the dichotomy? We have Jim Moseley, the guy who has a lot of fun with the field and plays jokes and Jim Moseley, the fellow who feels that, after all these years of research, there is some element of truth, something we don't understand, something that can't be explained, that is responsible for UFO phenomena and maybe even occult phenomena.*

**MOSELEY:** Yes, well that's what I have a hard time getting across to people. I do have a serious interest in the subject, and I did have a serious interest even back when I was doing hoaxes, but my approach is not serious. I like to enjoy myself. It's a hobby too. But, underneath it all, yes I am serious, and I think I always have been and I will continue to be.

**STEINBERG:** *Where do you go from here in your investigation and publishing ventures?*

**MOSELEY:** Well, I just continue to enjoy it. You know, until MJ-12 came along, about a year or so ago—of course there were abductions, that's a whole thing we haven't touched on here—I had begun to think it's very repetitious, I've been sick of reading sightings for years, except the most outstanding ones, because sightings repeat themselves endlessly. I was getting a little bit bored with it.

But now, in the last year or so, with MJ-12 and Gulf Breeze, and some of the other new things that are going on, I'm just having a ball. I think the field is getting crazier and crazier. I'm no crazier than I was before, so I can just



step back a little and watch my fellow researchers get further and further out. And what I'm telling you here, MUFON, being one of the most serious organizations, is getting further out, and even CUFOS. I think they're going to go beyond anything they might have done had Hynek lived with Clark at the helm.

So, the field is fascinating and I'm just enjoying myself and maybe eventually I'll learn something. I hope so.

**STEINBERG:** *Is that a natural evolution of the UFO field? From becoming a serious investigator looking for evidence, hard and fast evidence that the aliens are about to visit us and ending up in a more complex situation, where we might be facing a phenomenon that's beyond our understanding, and not subject to such a simple explanation?*

**MOSELEY:** Well, I know I'm the one being interviewed, but I have a feeling that your own views are very close to mine in the statements that I have made most recently here. I think you're still interested, but I think you realize too that we're not going to find an answer easily. I mean, if that were going to happen, it would have happened.

Another thing that always comes to my mind: We have these crashes of saucers, allegedly. If there were a phenomenon of aliens of whatever sort or people from another dimension or whatever, and if they wanted to prove themselves to us, there is nothing that the government could do to prevent that. It would be proven in 24 hours and the whole world would know about it. So either they don't want to or they're incapable of doing so, but in either case, the government doesn't control the situation. It's absurd to make such a fetish out of government secrecy, which almost everybody in the field does.

I've never been able to understand that. That was my quarrel with NICAP and it, to a lesser extent, continues on now. Look at all they've done with the Freedom of Information Act. They've gotten some very interesting stuff, and they still can't prove anything! And I don't think they ever will that way either.

**STEINBERG:** *What about abductions? You approached that subject briefly a moment ago. People like Barney and Betty Hill, for instance, the case back in the 1970's in Pascagoula, Mississippi. What are your feelings about those and similar cases?*

**MOSELEY:** Well, that's what started it. Betty and Barney Hill was years and years before any of these recent abductions, and the other one there in Mississippi, that was, I guess you would call it an abduction. They were taken up briefly, I think, into the spaceship, but it wasn't quite the same as this rash of abductions that's going on now.

I quite frankly have not read all of the literature, but I am under the impression that there are hundreds and hundreds, maybe thousands, of these cases. I'm also under the impression that almost anybody can be hypnotized, and if they want to go along with it, and if they are of that frame of mind to begin with, they're going to remember some kind of abduction case. And so it becomes rather ludicrous, because there is, in general, not a shred of physical evidence for any of them.

So what do we have there? We have sincere people—not all of them are sincere by any means. There are some utter psychos and hoaxers, but I suppose the vast majority of them are sincere, and under these hypnotic conditions they remember these peculiar events.

It would take something beyond the present level of psychology and psychiatry to explain it, but it is, in my opinion, in that realm. It is in the mental realm. It's not in the physical realm. I don't think anything physical has happened to these people, and I am almost 100% sure of that.

But what the mental situation is that causes these alleged memories to occur I am not qualified to say.

**STEINBERG:** *Carl Jung's "collective unconscious," perhaps?*

**MOSELEY:** Something of that order. I think so.

**STEINBERG:** *What do you foresee in the UFO field in the next five years?*

**MOSELEY:** I wonder if it's going to keep getting wilder as it's doing now, if this trend continues. And we shouldn't end this without mentioning John Lear, who wrote a letter to me published in a recent issue of *Saucer Smear*, which you may or may not want to quote in your article.

**STEINBERG:** *Let's just say it had three words, and the last word was "Moseley," and the first word began with "F" and the second one began with "Y" and the reader may use his imagination to tell us what those two words were.*

**MOSELEY:** John Lear has some of the wildest theories. He believes in underground bases all over the place. He believes there is some sort of a sharing of authority or power in some of these bases between aliens and Earth people, and all kinds of genetic experiments are going on. He ties it in also with the cattle mutilations. I mean, it's just a wild barrage of all kinds of events which are most hard to believe.

One version of this runs 45 pages, and I don't think you've seen it, but I am offering to send it out free on loan to anybody who wants it. I would feel terrible selling it, because I don't believe a word of it, the whole 45 pages. But that's the cutting edge of what we're getting, just into the wild blue yonder.

In other words, the people that used to be conservatives in the field, and, by the way, Lear is head of MUFON for the state of Nevada, so he's supposed to be serious, or we're supposed to think he is. And so, when the serious people, the so-called serious people, the scientific researchers, are off that far out, think of where the crackpots are? I can hardly even imagine it, because I don't speak to crackpots. I only speak to these "serious" people.

Where is it going. If it goes like that, it's going to become ludicrous—sorry to use that word again—if it hasn't already. Maybe it'll calm down. I have no idea, but more than ever, I'm just having a ball with it.

If you can handle it, *Saucer Smear* is being made available without charge to a limited number of *Caveat Emptor* readers. Just write to Jim Moseley at: P.O. Box 1709, Key West, FL 33041. Only a small number of non-subscribers will be accepted—and once Moseley's quota is filled, further requests will not be honored.



# UFO Research: Some Thoughts on the State of the Art

by Floyd Murray

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**Some say the UFO mystery just may never be solved, but the quest is worth all the fuss anyway.**

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Floyd Murray isn't especially well known in the UFO field, but his words are nevertheless important, because he has a wealth of knowledge about the subject, based on nearly a quarter century of field investigations and intensive research. He took part in several of the investigations into the strange events that took place in the San Luis Valley, Colorado, after the 1967 death of "Snippy" the horse. He's checked into UFO cases in his own southeast Pennsylvania backyard, MIB reports, the 1896-97 "airship" cases among others, and has known or been affiliated with in some way most of the prominent UFO researchers of the last decade.

Murray was an occasional contributor to *Caveat Emptor* in its original incarnation, but he has become infamous in the field as a result of a series of satiric (and often hilarious) articles foisted upon an unsuspecting public under the pseudonym "Richard E. Wiplash."

But Murray's satiric sense is only a small facet of his remarkable personality. He is at heart a dedicated and responsible researcher who is very careful about saying what he thinks until he has some sound evidence to back it all up.

In order to bring the state of the art in UFO research up to date, Murray chose to converse with the reader by interviewing himself.

In his working life, Murray is assistant editor of three weekly newspapers in Pennsylvania. Additionally, he writes an entertainment column for a large regional daily newspaper, and is a freelance writer on a variety of subjects. Floyd says he's "also one helluva guy."

**Question:** It's been 14 years since the last issue of *Caveat Emptor* was published. You've remained fairly active in the UFO field since that time, or at least in touch with the trends and whatever advances have been made in UFO/Forcean research. Where do you think we are now as opposed to where we were in 1974? Do you think any progress has



been made in understanding any of these mysteries, and if so in what way?

**Answer:** Well, from this vantage point, looking back at what's happened since 1974, I don't see a whole hell of a lot of changes, just the same old arguments and speculations, but some of the faces are different.

In those days, in UFOlogy, a lot of people were writing and talking about the "ancient astronauts" idea. It was an issue in the field. There was a lot going on about the "men in black," another hot item. There were others, but these are two good examples. There was a lot of intriguing evidence for both.

I knew people who seemed to have had brushes, at least, with the MIB silencers, including myself, although I paid more attention to other people's experiences than my own because of the "too close to the forest" syndrome. The archeological mysteries are still there—still ignored by science, as usual, and by everyone else today it seems.

I'm sure that even today, some poor doodad out in Fourwater, Kentucky or some place, who may have had a sighting of a strange glowing object on his farm and has



never heard of MIB-type phenomena, may be receiving funny visitors at his door or wondering who those guys with the camera getting out of that van are doing around his place. These things apparently really did go on. There seemed to be some MIB-related reports connected with the Hudson Valley (New York) sightings. I have no reason to believe they've stopped today, although they may have tapered off somewhat.

The phenomenon responsible for all this does seem to tailor itself to whatever current trends and thinking are holding sway among those involved in looking into it. Anyway, today we have the abduction mystery, which is hardly anything new, and the "MJ-12" controversy. For a while there it was the cattle mutilations. All these things are a big *cause celebre* for a while and then, you know, they just kind of fade out and something else takes their place. Nothing concrete will be learned, as we didn't learn anything substantial from MIB reports.

**Q:** *Are you saying then that some of these things are just fads, that because one person sees an MIB or slaughtered cow that the idea will catch on and others will start seeing the same things?*

**A:** In a way, yes, but I think these things have really happened and will continue to go on. It just seems that whatever's behind this focuses itself on, I guess "presenting" is as good a word as any, some of these far out phenomena so they keep happening for a while and people keep seeing or experience them. And then they taper off and interest fades and vice-versa. But there's always some incident, some "background noise" still there.

There were cattle mutilations similar to those in the 70's way back in the 19th century, and beyond, apparently, and MIB types tied up in UFO sightings, for years and years. But you don't hear about it as often until it gets bunched up together. I mean, lots of MIB-type reports, lots of cattle mutilations, in the 60's and 70's and then the connection became implanted in a lot of folk's minds—"Ah, UFO's—men in black"; "cattle mutilations might be aliens because of those funny lights we saw over the field," that kind of thing. Then, it all seemed to phase out but some sort of psychic connection was made.

I think you're seeing this happening again with the furor over abductions. Anyone who's had at least 10–15 years experience in this field has likely met a few abductees, or at least contactees along the way. Now there's Whitley Streiber, Budd Hopkins, articles in *Omni*, all over TV. I'm not saying these things aren't happening to these people. I'm saying that it's been happening but it's an issue in the UFO field, similar to the issues we had 14 years ago, and it's been going on but maybe not as much as now and nobody really noticed the trend before.

It's also kind of odd that, out of all the folks who are supposedly researchers, it's usually one guy who stumbles onto it, like Hopkins did with the abductees or Keel with the MIB back then.

**Q:** *Are you saying that abductees are just cropping up out of nowhere all at once? I mean, in most of these cases,*

*these abductions seemed to start years ago, when they were kids.*

**A:** Yes, but note, it all seems to be coming to fruition now, as if there were some kind of timing factor involved. Whatever's behind it may have planned it that way. I don't mean to sound paranoid, I'm just speculating. That's all we can do at this point, which is a shame.

**Q:** *So, do you think the abductions will provide an important key to solving this mystery?*

**A:** A key, no doubt. Since we can't directly study the force or whatever is responsible for UFOs and all the other garbage we have to content ourselves with studying its effects, what it seems to be doing to us as percipients. The way physicists have to study what they can't directly see or touch, except maybe this is a little harder. We may never see a solution to it in our lifetime, at least. It all seems insoluble sometimes.

**Q:** *What did you mean when you referred to "other garbage"?*

**A:** The other little quirks and oddities that crop up, you know. Before I sat down to talk about all this I went through some back issues of *Caveat Emptor*, and in one issue—it was from 1974—you had an item about a lion roaming around Bunker Hill, Pennsylvania. Residents saw it, heard it, the whole bit. There weren't any tracks though.

Well, over in New Jersey last summer [1987] and I think a year or two earlier, there was a tiger running loose, scaring state police out of the woods, lots of sightings. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* ran long articles both years on the sightings. I write an entertainment column for a daily newspaper and during the first sightings I was going to devote a little space to this New Jersey cat and loudly predict that nothing would ever come of it, which it didn't of course. I was only going to mention it so that when everyone had forgotten about it a month later or so, I could hoot about it in print, "Say, do you remember that tiger everyone saw and I said it would just disappear and sightings would stop..." that sort of thing. I was going to do the same thing during last year's sightings, but I thought, screw it, it'd open up a whole can of worms I don't want to get into in my column. My readers could care less about mystery cats, or the Surrey puma or anything like that.

**Q:** *Today, they're talking about genetic manipulation by ET's, and is that what they are here for? Fourteen years ago a lot of UFOlogists were thinking about a type of other dimensional explanation for all this. What do you think happened?*

**A:** Well, that's a very interesting point. I've only been semi-active in the field over the last 10 years or so, but I went to the MUFON [Mutual UFO Network] convention last year with some of the people I was with when we looked into things in the San Luis Valley in Colorado. They were both about my age, same generation thing. We cut our teeth on Frank Edwards, latched onto the "New UFOlogy" during the 60's, which was sort of a mystical time period anyway—at least a very strange and certainly eventful one—the whole thing. We thought pretty much alike in



other words.

And we met a lot of younger people into UFOs, guys in their twenties and I remember thinking "Gee, everybody's back to wondering what they aliens are here for, which solar system are they coming from," that sort of thing. It was all "ET," "ET" and it was, like, didn't anything that came out of that period matter, didn't some of those ideas about ultraterrestrials and the paranormal connections stick? I remember talking to one guy, who seemed a little shocked that I actually knew John Keel. You know, "You really met John Keel?" It was kind of like he was something from another era.

There's a lot of bright guys out there taking an interest in all this and I was glad of that, but I definitely got the impression that the parauniverse, other dimensional (whatever you want to call it) ideas are something that some people think went out with love beads and tie-dyes. That's really a shame.

**Q: Why do you think that happened?**

**A:** Well, I think there's several different factors there. I mean, the whole UFO thing in the beginning was supposed to be "little green men from Mars" and all that and then people like Keel and Vallee and Steiger came along, especially Keel, whom I think influenced a whole generation of UFO researchers by himself, and these guys are saying "No, maybe this phenomenon's been here all along, it just takes different forms for the times" and they're talking about leprechauns and elves, for christ's sake.

Then, you have a lot of researchers running around buying books on fairy legends. You know, trying to look macho when you're up at the counter buying *Fairies Around the World* or something.

**Q: But you still bought the books.**

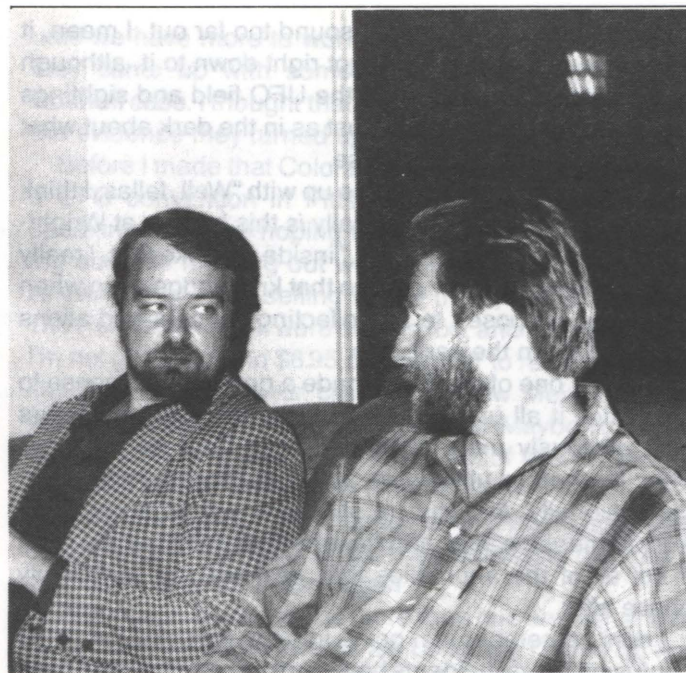
**A:** Oh yeah. The point is that there was apparently this connection there. If you looked at some of these old myths, not just the fairy myths but others, and thought in modern UFO-sighting terms when reading them, you could see it for yourself. There really seems to be a connection there.

**Q: What were the other factors?**

**A:** Well, of course you had Steven Spielberg and his films. It's funny that the most successful filmmaker in movie history should make a lot of his reputation on these stories about cute little aliens. All of a sudden, aliens were acceptable, they weren't 10 feet tall with six arms who were going to zap you with death rays or something. And, well, a lot of today's young people are simply less mystical, I guess you could say, than the generation before them. They were running computers in the first grade while we were reading books about fairies, and they grew up thinking in more logical, linear terms than we did. It's the old equation—UFO's (equals) outer space plus ET's.

**Q: And that's bad?**

**A:** No, not at all. We could learn a lot from them. I could learn how to run a computer better, for one thing. You need that kind of thinking. That's what makes great scientists. But I think you've got to consider the other possibilities



**Floyd Murray at the National UFO Conference in Cleveland, talking shop with Canadian film producer Dan Curtis.**

too, that when you're dealing with stuff as strange as this, you've got to be open minded to all ideas. Just because it looks like a fish, smells like a fish and tastes like a fish doesn't necessarily mean it's a fish. I learned that when I hit puberty.

**Q: I know a lot of younger researchers who still subscribe to the Keel-type of thinking.**

**A:** Well, I'm certainly not saying that none of them do. But I did notice more of the straight ET-type of thinking among some of the younger researchers than I would have expected. It's an easy, basic explanation. The UF (Ultraterrestrial) thinking is more complex, harder to grasp and in some ways more unsettling.

**Q: Well, considering a lot of abduction reports made under hypnosis, which describe alien type creatures and those experiments and the Roswell incident and reports of the government holding onto crashed UFO's and alien bodies, don't you think that points to the ET thesis, assuming that these accounts are accurate?**

**A:** Oh, yeah. But the point is, and this bothered me for some time, is that it's very possible that both scenarios are operating. Back in 1980, I attended a very private, un-announced UFO conference in Colorado. Tom Adams invited me and Hynek was there, Sprinkle, quite a few heavyweights, both well known and not so well known.

I got a kick out of meeting Hynek. He seemed like a pretty nice fellow, and I noticed that here, away from TV cameras and reporters, he seemed a lot more relaxed, obviously, than when he was on the spot, so to speak.

During after-meeting bull sessions when everyone's just sitting around gabbing he'd come up with some pretty surprising speculations that I don't think he's ever said



publicly because they might sound too far out. I mean, it was obvious that when you got right down to it, although he was indeed an expert on the UFO field and sightings and such, he seemed to be just as in the dark about what they might be as anybody else.

I kept hoping he might come up with "Well, fellas, I think I can level with you. There really *is* this hanger at Wright-Patterson and they do have..." inside stuff like that. I really don't think he was ever privy to that knowledge even when they were supposed to be collecting saucers and aliens right and left in the early 50's.

Anyway, one of his ideas made a great deal of sense to me. It ties it all up. ET's came here, thousands of years ago, obviously more advanced than we are now. They learned or utilized an ability to indeed travel interdimensionally. And they're still here, although *originally* from someplace else, and have indeed been behind most if not all of the anomalies that we Fortean's so lovingly chase after.

I don't remember him going into the purpose for all the confusion these incidents have caused, and the fear, but it was an interesting little concept that seems to equate. We've been seeing these things for thousands of years. *Something* is going on here and we're past the point now about arguing whether they exist or not. It's just speculation but it would account for quite a bit we're seeing, especially today. He also speculated that the objects might be some sort of tulpas or thought forms.

**Q:** But if they can indeed travel interdimensionally, what they do need flying saucers for?

**A:** First, even if they are just arriving from outer space yesterday, they aren't using them all the time anyway. The skies are not constantly filled with UFOs, you know. Whatever is behind these sightings obviously must be able to show itself to us when they feel like it and then disappear in some way.

And that's the thing here. People see these UFOs, they wonder, they *think*. Nobody thought a whole lot about life in outer space before the 1947 sightings. The idea of finding and communicating with other life forms is a big reason for space programs, aside from the economic, possible mining sites, and such and the old "man's quest for new frontiers" idea. We really turned our attention to the stars after World War II. I'm not saying that the early flaps in the late 40's and 50's were the reason for the space race, but I do think they played a part in it.

Sightings of these things were regarded as portents or signs from heaven in ancient times, but what they seem to actually be are guideposts telling us where to go next. We've seen them, it seems, because something somewhere wants to direct our attention upwards or inwards, wants us to start thinking about our origins, our universe, wants us to be aware of something else in our little world.

I've often said that if you study the *original* reports of the 1896-1897 airship sightings, you'll see the whole UFO story that we've experienced these past 40 some years compressed in that one, small chunk of time. It's all there.

Those machines, of course, weren't sleek craft, they were clunkers and the people seen in them were wearing goggles, coats, like they were ready to step into an old Model T Ford for a Sunday spin. Just what you'd expect early inventions to look like.

They gave conflicting stories about where they were from and where they were going. Everyone speculated on who the mysterious inventor was who had made these ships. And then there were the oddities, non-human types seen here and there in different cases, but only occasionally.

There were a few speculations that the airships were from Mars in the papers but it was the *idea* of an inventor of a heavier-than-air craft that people were talking about. And this idea was indeed in the air, so to speak. I have a thick file of applications for patents for airships, all from the 1880-1899 period. They all pretty much looked like the airship descriptions. In 1903, some say a little before, heavier-than-air craft became a reality.

There were UFO flaps afterwards of course, but it was pretty much of a lull until 1947 or so when all of a sudden we got craft shaped for a more modern time—saucers, cigar-type rockets—and everyone's talking about beings from outer space. Next thing you know, we're up there ourselves. Sometimes it seems as if we're following "their" lead.

**Q:** What about the other item you mentioned, the MJ-12 papers? If they turn out to be the genuine article, then they surely point to an ET origin, government involvement in covering up, all the things that were talked about back in the 50's and 60's?

**A:** Well, I may end up eating my words on this, but I still think the jury's out on the MJ-12 documents. I mean, from my perspective, I think it's long past time that Moore and Shandera came out with the full story, and the rest of the material they claim to have. I suspect we won't see this happen until they write a book about it all. There may well be some extenuating circumstances preventing this, I don't know, but here are some guys who claim to have all this information and they're holding it back just as they claim the government has been doing for so long.

**Q:** But you still think there's something to it?

**A:** Until all the data is in, yes, they deserve the benefit of the doubt. If it is a hoax it's very possible that they're the one's being taken in. The stuff they've released so far is damned impressive looking, but there are still some good questions there. Everyone says this comparing of type-faces, etc., is mind-numbing, and maybe it is, but that's how this type of research has to be done—it's meticulous. But of lot of people following this have been kept in the dark so long. I think that's part of why there's such a negative reaction these days. Everything's concentrated on this one document and people are getting tired of it now. What else they have should be released, compared with MJ-12, and then see how the whole thing holds up under scrutiny.

**Q:** What makes you think there's going to be a book?

**A:** Well, that's just something we can probably expect. They're writers, communicators, they've apparently invested



a lot of time and money in this. If I were in their place, hell, I'd write one too.

**Q:** *But are you saying you'd hold the rest of the stuff up until your book was done? Maybe that's all they're doing.*

**A:** I think the story behind the materials they have, how they came across it, would be a fascinating subject in itself, and they wouldn't have to release everything.

It's a problem, I mean, Shandera's a pretty unknown quantity, but I've been told that even people who don't like Bill Moore personally say he's honest, he's a thorough researcher. He's been involved in this field a long time, he's built a pretty solid reputation. Anything's possible of course, but I don't think he'd been dumb enough to blow it out the window by trying to put something like this across.

Same for Stanton T. Friedman, even more so. He spoke at Immaculata College in Pennsylvania last September [1987]. It was a good but standard UFO speech and he did go into the MJ-12 stuff. I'd made arrangements earlier to write an article about this for the daily newspaper I write for. I wanted to interview Friedman but I'm so tired of the old, you know, "This expert says UFOs are real and here's why" type of stuff. I know the public doesn't want to get more involved in it than this, but I wanted something different so I concentrated the article on the MJ-12 papers. He seemed like a pretty straightforward guy.

After the lecture, a lot of people followed him to a lounge downstairs from the lecture hall, where he answered questions, standing there nibbling fruit and cheese from the buffet the college had set up. I asked him some pretty direct questions—I knew about their source for the documents possibly being in New Mexico, other things. I can't say he tried to evade anything. I asked him honest questions and he gave what I think were honest answers.

He fudged a little on the content of this interview tape they have, the one where this Air Force source supposedly talks about the alien involvement with Christ, but in that room at that time I didn't want to get into that anymore than I think he did. That might have opened a can of worms that kept him there forever, arguing with somebody or something.

As it was, I left about 11:30 p.m., a couple of hours after the lecture. I was bone tired. We had put two papers together that day, and when I left he was still standing there, answering any question thrown at him. I like Friedman. I don't think he'd be a party to a hoax like this. He's been in this field along time. He's doing well on the lecture circuit. He's not a fool.

There are plenty of good investigators in the UFO field. They check into things, ask questions, think critically. You might be able to put something over on some nitwit running around in a spacesuit who'll believe anything you tell him, but there's people involved in all this who would make good investigative reporters on any newspaper. They don't swallow anything that comes down the block.

No, until more data come in, I really think we should wait and see here, don't criticize so quickly. If I'm wrong, I'm wrong, I can live with that. All I'm saying how is hold off

until we have more to work with here. Moore, Friedman, they came up with some startling information on the Roswell case. I thought that was all a crock until I looked at the evidence they turned up.

Before I made that Colorado trip in 1980, I stopped off at a UFO convention in Pittsburgh. John Keel was there speaking, we were hoping to try and talk him into attending our little meeting out west, but he just couldn't do it. Anyway, they were selling books there, lots of copies of *The Roswell Incident* were on sale too, and I thought "Jeez, I'm not gonna spend \$8.95 or whatever to read something like this. No UFO ever crashed in New Mexico or anywhere." Looks like I was wrong on that. Maybe I'm wrong on this. Let's see what else comes out of this, what other evidence before we dismiss it out of hand.

**Q:** *But, here again, if these documents or some other similar evidence is authentic and proved authentic, then you're right back to an ET theory again.*

**A:** And again, there may be more than one answer at work here, if there's any answer at all. Long ago I came up with the belief in a universal law, "Murray's Law of Fortean Frustration." There seems to be some sort of built-in mechanism in these mysteries, Fortean mysteries, psychic mysteries, that seems to kick in whenever someone seems close to finding an answer. Something invariably happens to block it and make the mystery frustrating again.

It was at work years ago in the other things we discussed, it seems to be at work today in the MJ-12 thing, certainly it's at work in the abduction mystery. There are valid questions about the usefulness of hypnosis and hypnosis seems to be the only way to research this particular mystery, so any evidence is questionable right there. There's always something there to keep anything from ever being proved one way or the other. So you're always left with the mystery and it just keeps going on, people come and go, but the mystery remains basically the same. It's a never-ending cycle.

**Q:** *So why do you keep on with it?*

**A:** I don't know. There's a lot I like about studying these things, a lot I don't like. Like so many others interested in these questions, I'm drawn to it all, intrigued by it in a way I'll never understand. I've given up trying to understand why. I just accept it as a part of me, like the color of my eyes.

Basically, I don't think we'll ever find a definitive answer but I'll keep going through the motions of looking, just as so many others are doing and will continue to do until a new generation of people—relatively few, but they'll always be there—take up the quest.

I've just found a certain peace within myself in understanding that everything in the world, everything in life, all the pain, the joy, the love, the hate, is as it's meant to be, for whatever purpose that is. Everything is just the way it's supposed to be in this existence of ours, this universe, and if some of us are meant to keep searching for answers we'll never find, then so be it. We can always take what pleasure from the hunt that we can and we can always find an answer within ourselves. There's certainly nothing wrong with that.



# **The Ego Corner: Still Crazy, After All These Years**

**by Geneva Hagen**

**My practical advice would be, if you hear someone call out, "Look, up in the sky — a UFO!" — feel for your wallet!**

*Geneva Hagen is the co-founder of Caveat Emptor, and she served as co-editor through most of its existence. Thus, she is in a special position to understand its odd editorial focus that stretches far beyond UFOs and related phenomena to fringe movements of all sorts.*

*Since 14 years have elapsed since the last issue of this magazine appeared, we felt it would be a good idea for Geneva to resume her column by summarizing what has happened in the various movements she has followed through the years. This article is written with the assumption that many of you were familiar to some extent with earlier issues of Caveat Emptor. If you are joining us for the first time, please bear with us. We've tried to insert a few editorial notes where appropriate to bring you up to date on references with which you may not be familiar.*

*We also hope you will be impressed—as we have always been—with Geneva's special world-view and her uniquely personal writing style. If she sounds at times like she's writing a personal letter to you, she is doing just that.*

**I**t was twenty years ago today... when I drew the picture that later became the cover of the first issue of *Caveat Emptor*. The world has changed a lot since those days, and so have we. Gene asked me to summarize some of the changes that have taken place in the various fields that *Caveat Emptor* used to cover.

## **WAR AND PEACE AND POLITICS**

The U.S. is out of Vietnam, but continues to have negative impact in Southeast Asia. In fact, the Western nations still recognize the exiled Khmer Rouge, responsible for genocide and famine, as the legitimate government of Cambodia!

The U.S. is (still) *into* Central America, but here the dirty work has been done through paid mercenaries. Without the threat of being drafted to combat, most Americans have taken no interest in the problem. Disinformation has

muddled the news media to the point where it is next to impossible for U.S. citizens to get a straight story on that part of the world.

*Watergate* had everyone glued to their TV sets. By the time *Irangate* came along, nobody cared. Nixon has been replaced by a senile Hollywood actor who can't even read the right script at the right press conference. The voters politely fail to notice this, or the fact that the national debt has skyrocketed during Reagan's term of office. Military spending has increased, while social programs have been cut, and food banks and soup kitchens report a booming business.

## **VOICES FROM THE PAST**

Dr. Leo Louis Martello—our former staff witch—has suffered a shave and a haircut, but he is still hanging in there and publishing information on Witchcraft.

Our old friend Tim Zell is now known as Otter. He married Morning Glory, moved to a West Coast retreat, and started raising Unicorns. Meanwhile, back in St. Louis, his Church of All Worlds has disbanded and reformed as Earth Church of Amargi. Author Robert Heinlein, who wrote the book *Stranger in a Strange Land*, which inspired the CAW philosophy, passed away this May at age 80. The *Green Egg* magazine recently resumed publication, the Church of All Worlds is again a going concern, and Otter and Morning Glory have announced their intended handfasting with Diana Darling.

In the pages of the *Green Egg* in the early 1970's, Zell had set forth the idea of Planet Earth as a single living organism, which he called Terrebia. Since then, the same concept has been independently developed by Dr. J. Lovelock, and has become widely known as the Gaia Hypothesis.

## **WORLD POPULATION**

Our numbers have risen to five billion, but the population growth rate has slowed down in the more prosperous countries. Experts say the only way to get this to happen worldwide is to lower the infant mortality rate to below 50/1000, a point at which people can expect all their children to live. The IMR had been steadily declining until the Reagan administration made its global impact felt. It has now started to creep upward again—and so has the



population growth rate.

## STATUS OF WOMEN

Women still comprise a growing percentage of the world's poor, and are still paid less than men for the same work, Equal Opportunity Laws to the contrary. On the bright side, there are now more women in the professions (in Canada over 60% of medical students are female), and socially conscious people have started trying to use non-sexist language, in defense of formal grammar. The women's movement is now quite substantial, and women are attempting to reconstruct their own role in history. Goddess-centered religions such as Wicca and Neo-Paganism have gained more adherents, and are gaining legal recognition.

## SEXUAL CUSTOMS

At first Herpes seemed like the answer to the prayers of the Moral Majority, but it failed to have much impact on people's behavior—probably because, though it can cause blindness and birth defects in a small percentage of those afflicted, most commonly it is just a nuisance disease. AIDS, however, is something else again, and many fear that we must kiss the Sexual Revolution goodbye (or maybe a handshake would be safer!) A little research reveals that the public information on AIDS is quite unreliable. There are questions as to whether the HIV virus really is the causative agent, or whether AIDS even exists as a discreet disease entity. Immune system breakdowns have now also been noted in salmon, seals, whales, dolphins, and pigs, to name a few species. But until the answers are in, non-monogamous people should continue to practice Safe Sex—it's your life at stake!

## HIGHER CONSCIOUSNESS

It's ludicrous to even play with this concept in a culture that elected Ronald Reagan, but let's go through the motions.

The Farm in Tennessee has disbanded due to financial stress. The popular Indian guru in Muktananda was revealed after his death to have been a sex molester who maintained a private goon squad. His competitor, Rejneesh, who calls himself "the rich man's guru," was chased out of Oregon for various scandals. The Scientologists are being sued in both the U.S. and Canada for sabotaging government files. The Moonies keep getting richer. Jimmy Swaggart goes scott free, while the prostitute he hired is jailed for "immorality," and Jim Bakker may soon be on the air again on the PTL network to ask for more money. Leadership of the Society of Emissaries has changed hands following Lord Exeter's death, and it continues quietly on course, but declines to deal head-on with any of the issues of our time. The Trickster, Werner Erhard, continues his mission to reprogram the power structure and mobilize the masses. The masses are stirring in their sleep—but *surely* it's all just been a bad dream?

Psychedelics continue to make the rounds, but nobody

seems to be getting Enlightened by them anymore. A couple of chemical substances were found to have the specific effect of enhancing empathy and communication. Of course, Congress hastened to legislate against the stuff before it could find its way into diplomatic circles and spoil everything. The new law also bans generic consciousness-altering effects, and could be interpreted to apply to medication, brain-wave machines, or even deep breathing. The era of the Brain Police has finally arrived.

Religious fundamentalism seems to be on an upswing among all sects, Christian and otherwise, as people with circuits overloaded desperately grab at simplistic answers to complex problems. Though I've seen a few cars sporting bumper stickers that say, "Let's put the *mental* back in Fundamental," it appears most fundists prefer to leave it out. The crew currently in power in Washington, D.C., are not highly motivated to solve our social and ecological crises while they're expecting to be raptured up to heaven at any moment, leaving the rest of us to deal with the mess! The Button is now in the hands of people whose religious scenario calls for global apocalypse. I hope you thought of this when you went to the voting booths in November. Those same people would prefer to have magazines like *Caveat Emptor* censored or banned entirely. They are also campaigning to remove school textbooks that mention evolution, or portray women in non-traditional roles.

Meanwhile, thanks partly to CIA deals made with the gangs of thugs who control the various Latin American dictatorships, the cocaine trade is at an all-time high. This highly addictive and debilitating substance has become the drug of choice; people have gotten so used to being lied to that they disregard the warnings. Pretending ignorance of the fact that his beloved Contra mercenaries have been financed partly through cocaine profits, Reagan—and no doubt his successor, George Bush—will profess horror and call for drug-testing in the workplace.

*Wake up, America*—they're chipping away at your freedom! Thank Goddess, I now live in Canada, but what happens in the U.S. eventually affects the whole world. Relief workers in Guatemala tell us that the death squads there stepped up their activities as soon as Ronald Reagan got elected.

## UFOs

My most practical advice would be, if you find yourself strolling along a busy street and you hear someone call out, "Look, up in the sky—a UFO!"—feel for your wallet!

*The Twelfth Planet* series by Zecharia Sitchin again raises the Ancient Astronaut theory in a convincing way. The author says ancient texts clearly state that human beings were created by genetic manipulation, crossing UFO-nauts with a Terran ape-creature to produce workers for their mineral mines. The recent advances in biotechnology make this notion seem plausible, and the repeated attempts of tyrants like Hitler, acting on "messages from beyond," to mold us back into mindless worker-units lend



a chilling credibility to the concept. Unfortunately, the material in these books tends to be poorly organized and footnoted, so we are often left without any way to verify the accuracy of the translations we are given.

UFOs continue to be spotted, and Jackie Gleason's wife tells a story that seems to confirm the old legend of UFO-nauts on ice in a Florida Air Force hangar. Theories are varied as ever, the current one being that electromagnetic fields produced by stresses within the Earth's crust can stall car engines and stimulate the dream centers of the brain. Some speculate that this might be the same Earth Energy revered by our Pagan Ancestors, and the UFO-nauts the same Little People. Whitley Strieber's book *Communion* has become a best-seller, but he admits he hasn't a clue as to what's really going on.

Richard Shaver passed away shortly after *Caveat Emptor* discontinued publication. He provided us with a wonderful scenario of the future evolution of our species. Scientific developments in genetics, computers, and holography continued to prove out his visions. A magazine called *Shavertron* was published by Richard Toronto in California until recently, but Shaver's ideas are currently without a voice.

### TRANSCENDENTAL ACQUISITION

The \$400 weekend seminar to change your life has become big business, and channelling is also hot stuff now. However, since Jane Roberts (who channelled Seth) passed on, I've been unimpressed by the quality of material coming through. Ramtha (a/k/a J.Z. Knight) has collected quite a following, and back in 1982 a number of his/her/its followers quit their jobs, sold their homes, and moved to Oregon to await the arrival of the Space Brothers. The UFO-nauts are late for their appointment as usual, and some followers have begun drifting back from whence they came, minus their homes and their jobs. Others remain in Oregon, busily defining to themselves what Ramtha must've *really* meant.

Ken Carey, author of *The Starseed Transmissions*, is one channeller who doesn't seem to be in it for the money. He predicts a Global Awakening soon to come. I hope he's right, because otherwise things don't look so good.

### THE HARMONIC CONVERGENCE

August 16, 1987 began the transition period of the Mayan calendar. The new cosmic cycle is supposed to be fully activated by 2012, if we should last so long.

### CLIMATE

Nuclear war and societal breakdown were the big fears of my youth, but it's beginning to seem that ecological collapse may get us first. The ecosystem is creaking and groaning under our assaults, and the Greenhouse Effect seems to be underway at last. The drought is having a devastating effect on our already-beleaguered farmers, partly because of their long history of poor soil and water use practices. Though the consequences of the Green-

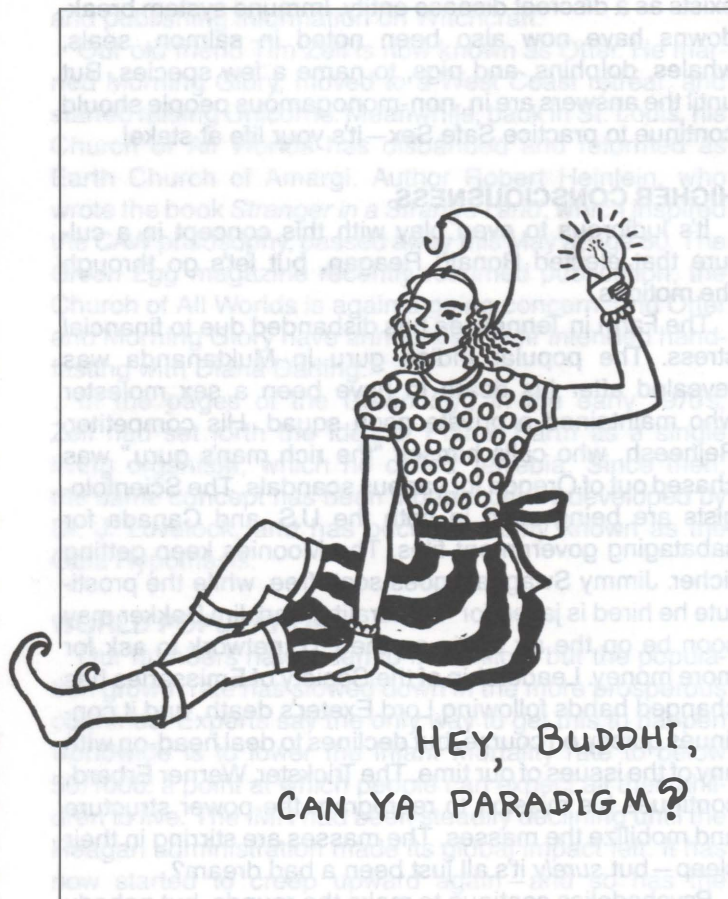
house Effect will be severe, it is probably still preferable to the Ice Age, which was otherwise about due to begin!

### MYSELF

I have remarried and moved to Canada, and am presently living on a solar-powered homestead in a beautiful rural valley in rural British Columbia. (The Native Indians in this area are spearheading a major land claims case.) Much of my spare time is spent coordinating various efforts to end world hunger. (Readers are encouraged to write me in care of *Caveat Emptor* for more information on this subject.) You see, it has come to my attention that hunger is by far the biggest cause of needless suffering on our planet; each year it kills as many people as the Holocaust, and like the Holocaust, it is a massive loss of human lives that goes on day after day, year after year, *under circumstances in which we know it is happening*. However, the Earth produces enough to feed its present population twice over, and a look at history will show that no nation has ever lowered its birthrate without *first* ending widespread hunger. Any attempt at social transformation or spiritual growth that fails to recognize the horrendous impact of this condition and aim to correct it is, quite simply, way off track—much like trying to meditate while your neighbor's house is burning down and sparks are smoldering on the roof of your own.

And that's the bottom line of it.

—Geneva Hagen





## **Mainstream Musings:**

# **The Extremists of High-End Audio**

**by Gene Steinberg**

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**If you think some UFO buffs are a little strange, wait till you hear about the wild and crazy world of high-end audio.**

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It's safe to say that most of you have a stereo system of some sort. Whether it's a portable radio and tape deck (a "boom box") or an elaborate component system costing a small fortune, most everyone has something at home (or in the car) to reproduce recorded music.

Back in the 1950's high fidelity was the province of just a few thousand hobbyists. Speakers were hideously large and ugly. Amplifiers—which made the sound loud enough to be heard through the speaker—were ungainly affairs powered by tubes and requiring of lots of ventilation because of the heat build-up. We heard our music on the radio (FM if we wanted high quality) and on our record player.

The masses bought console systems, with the record player, the radio, the amplifier and the speakers all in one box. They were nice pieces of furniture, but rather short in terms of ultimate sound quality.

The late 1950's brought stereo, and the popularity of high fidelity grew. The legendary "acoustic suspension" principle allowed designers to pack a lot of bass into a small box, somewhat at the cost of efficiency (meaning that you needed more amplifier power to make them loud enough). But the results—the first true bookshelf speakers—brought affordable high quality music into everyone's home. The stereo era was truly upon us.

The 1960's brought the transistor revolution. It took a lot of years to make the little solid state devices—which originated in the labs of AT&T in the 1940's—powerful enough to replace tubes. Now high quality electronics could be packed into a smaller box.

In the 1970's many of the huge Japanese electronic conglomerates bought out some of the old-line American audio firms, and virtually dominated the rapidly growing market overnight.

The results of all this: Nowadays for suprisingly little money you can buy a pretty nice sounding stereo system. And in addition to hearing records and radio, you can now

also listen to music on tape cassettes and on compact disc. The latter—an almost 5-inch disc containing tiny pits and read by a low-power laser assembly—is revolutionizing the recording industry. The little CDs are amazingly durable, and with a minimum of care they provide superb, distortion free sound indefinitely.

### **AUDIO'S LUNATIC FRINGE**

There is a hard-core of so-called "audiophiles" who are staunchly denouncing the era of CDs and rack systems. You can read about them in such underground journals as *Stereophile* (the granddaddy of them all!) and *The Absolute Sound*. They decry virtually any mass-produced audio product as "mid-fi" (I guess halfway between "low-fi" and "high-fi," which is all they're interested in). Many of the products they buy, in fact, are made by obscure American or British firms (kind of a "cottage industry") and are available only at a select number of stores, generally located in the larger population centers.

And—rather than being in the forefront of new technologies for the reproduction of music, their preferences seem a parody of the products that were sold back in the 1950's, at the dawn of the audio era.

Of course receivers are out! Putting everything on one chassis, to them, results in severe sonic compromises. To join the high-end club, one must buy separate components: A preamplifier, which serves as a control device to select your sound source, an amplifier (as we explained) to make it louder, and, horror of horrors, a tuner on which to hear your favorite radio station.

Transistors, to them, produce a harsh and grainy sound. They prefer the newest incarnation of tube amplifiers which can cost up to ten thousand bucks for a monaural pair (yes, one amplifier for each channel) or equally expensive solid state electronics that somehow have "tube-like" qualities, typified by a supposedly smoother, more musical presentation.

Speakers are large and of exotic materials. True high-end audiophiles are enamored of the ribbon and electrostatic variety, thin panels sometimes nearly eight feet high, which are supposed to provide a more realistic stereo soundstage. These speakers can also require tremendous amounts of amplifier power, cost many thousands of dollars, and are quite particular in room placement.



And they frequently provide mediocre low frequency reproduction, such as the sound of a bass drum or a pipe organ.

Naturally, the high-enders eschew digital sound, as typified by CDs, as sterile and flat, and prefer to concentrate on the rapidly dying phono arts. They are known to spend upwards of fifteen thousand dollars on a record player (which often requires a vacuum pump with which to clamp records right to the turntable—the pump itself is so noisy it has to be placed in another room or in a closet!).

By now, however, some of these folks are starting to read the handwriting on the wall: They will grudgingly accept CD players, if they conform to typical high-end practices. So we have players, sometimes on split chassis (transport on one section, electronics on the other) costing as high as \$8,000 for the set!

But CDs are still roundly condemned by most high-enders. When the underground audio press reviews a CD player, the product just doesn't sound right when compared to the analog LP record. First of all, the smooth and extended high frequencies reproduced by the CD emerge as "digital glare." Also, the overall sound supposedly loses the depth and realism that is said to be there in abundance on an LP.

Ignored for the most part are the sacrifices that must be made to get a musical piece onto vinyl. Just about any record mastering engineer would tell them, as they have told me, that a master tape has to be carefully equalized on a sophisticated mixing console before a record can be cut that will play properly on your turntable. If the full frequency range were present on the record's grooves, the LP would skip. And a record has to be mastered so that it will track not only on that \$15,000 turntable, but on your child's \$25 portable as well.

Something has gotta give.

It's also true that LPs are noisier than the comparable CD. And psycho-acoustic studies have shown that, when someone listens to a musical piece that includes a broadband noise in the background, such as the surface noise of a record, the ear perceives it as having more depth and spaciousness than a recording that is free of such noise.

You can prove all this in your own home simply by watching an old movie with a hissy soundtrack on your TV. Although the quality of sound is generally poor, there is an incredible ambience present, giving it a lifelike perspective. Now listen to a recent TV movie. The sound is clean, and undistorted, yet seems to have a drier, flatter perspective. And you don't need a high-tech stereo TV to verify all this. Any portable unit will do quite nicely.

And the very subjectivity of what one hears is part and parcel of the high-end audio myth. Other studies have shown that a large speaker often seems to sound better to the listener than a small speaker. In one test, a small speaker system was placed inside a large cabinet, and played side-by-side with its unadorned counterpart. Most of the listeners rated the larger speaker as being better!

As for hooking up one component to another, most of us

will go to the local Radio Shack store and spend a few bucks on audio cables. A true high-end-er will have none of that—the slightest possible source of distortion in the reproduction chain is anathema to them. So they spend upwards of \$100 a foot on silver or oxygen-free copper speaker cables, or audio cables—and will swear that it makes a vast difference in the sound!

Now, I have carefully listened to many of these acclaimed high-end systems at large audiophile salons and in private homes. True some of these systems are capable of extraordinarily accurate musical reproduction. In one case, I can recall feeling I was seated in front of a symphony orchestra as it played "Night on Bald Mountain." The effect was truly astonishing! (Unfortunately the whole system cost upwards of \$15,000—I'll order mine any day now!) But I have never heard any difference in sound as a result of the cable used—unless, of course, the cable was defective.

The mass circulation high fidelity magazines, *Audio*, *High Fidelity* and *Stereo Review*, agree: Their editorial position is that the cable makes little if any difference. The dealers, who stand to make huge mark-ups from cable sales, pretend not to notice. Some of these elaborate cables, such as Monster Cable (the progenitor of the exotic cable industry) are now to be found even at discount and department stores. Merchandisers know a good thing when they see it.

High-enders are also tweekers *par excellence*. In addition to their elaborate component systems, they spend all sorts of sums on stabilizer rings, damping rings, speaker stands with spikes at the bottom and other artifacts that are said to provide a closer resemblance to "the absolute sound."

To enter the world of high-end audio, you need a large bank account or a credit card with a very high limit.

## THE GADFLY OF HIGH-END AUDIO

Enter Bob Carver...

Now Bob Carver isn't very popular among the high-end extremists. First of all, the firm that bears his name is too large—some 300 employees strong—and it sells a lot of high-quality products at very affordable prices. Also some of those products go against the shibboleths of the high-end-er.

For example, amplifiers. If you've come this far, you know that amplifiers are supposed to contain tubes, cost a lot of money and be incredibly large. Bob Carver—a wizard audio engineer—decided that a lot of power didn't necessarily mean a large box. So he invented the "Magnetic Field Power Amplifier." Without going into all the complex technical details, let me just say that this product contains a sort of on-demand power supply that tracks the audio signal. When you need more power for a loud musical passage, it's there. When a quiet passage or low volume setting requires less power, the current demand is proportionately reduced.

The original Carver amplifier—the "cube" it was called,



because of its odd shape—provided more than 200 watts of clean power for each stereo channel in a little box that weighed no more than 9 pounds—at a cost of just a few hundred dollars! Up to that point, just about anything in that class weighed a hundred pounds or more, produced a lot of heat, had the current requirements of a small room air conditioner and cost thousands.

The “cube”—still available in its latest incarnation, the M400t—was supplemented by a line of more conventionally sized amplifiers, still startlingly powerful for their size.

As to be expected, the high-enders said these products had less than state-of-the-art sound, a whole lot less. Carver didn't take this very well, so he issued a challenge: He'd make his amplifiers sound exactly like any one they named, however elaborate and expensive.

The high-end community took up the challenge! Back in 1983, Carver selected his then top-of-the-line M1.5t and made it sound indistinguishable from an elaborate solid state amplifier costing many thousands of dollars more. The uproar that ensued in the underground audio press hasn't subsided!

More recently I got to listen to the M1.5t. It was hooked up to an expensive British monitor speaker designed for recording studios. The speaker is quite revealing, and it can sound a mite harsh with an inferior set of electronics or a heavily processed recording. I selected the Dire Straits “Brothers in Arms” CD (Warner Brothers), which also can have a rather harsh aspect when played on many systems. The sound was clean, crisp, incredibly musical and enjoyable.

In 1985, Carver accepted a second challenge—this time he made another of his amplifiers—the M1.0t—sound just like a tube amplifier costing ten times as much. On this occasion he traveled to Santa Fe, New Mexico, home of *Stereophile* magazine. The magazine's editors were on hand for the whole conversion process—which took a scant 48 hours! Of course, those editors have since disavowed the whole thing. They insist that the production models of this amplifier, which are available for less than \$625 at your local dealer, don't sound at all like the target amplifier. (In fact, underground audio magazines won't even accept Carver advertising anymore.)

But I have heard both amplifiers, side by side. I'm musically trained, and I don't have tin ears. While the more expensive amplifier is nicer to look at, with all those bright tubes glowing, there is just no difference whatever in sound between the two.

More recently, Carver did audio's extremists one better: He designed his own esoteric amplifier—the “Silver Seven.” The amplifier comes on four—yes four—separate chassis, two for the power supplies, two for the electronics. The tubes alone cost \$3500. The system, available on special order, costs a mere \$17,500! But it's beautiful to look at, finished in black with gold inlays. Each chassis is mounted on a separate marble slab. High-priced silver cable is used throughout. Surely this product is conspicuous consumption carried to its extreme.

Not to go against his philosophy, however, Carver is producing a new solid-state amplifier, the M4.0t, that will sound the same, have almost as much power, and cost less than 800 dollars!

As to CDs: Bob has attacked this problem too. He agreed with the high-enders that some CDs sounded harsh and sterile. So he—perhaps with his marketing department at hand—came up with something called “The Digital Time Lens.” The circuit, incorporated in his CD player, changes the frequency balance and stereo decoding to more closely approximate the venerable LP record. The result is fascinating: The average rock recording mixed with loads of echo, flanging and other assorted horrors to sound better on the radio, emerges with a crisp, full-bodied sound when the circuit is turned on.

Carver also has such circuits as the “Sonic Hologram,” providing a more lifelike stereo effect, and the “Asymmetrical Charge-Coupled FM Stereo Detector” (boy, the marketing folks must have had a fun time inventing these labels!) which makes a distorted FM radio broadcast sound more listenable.

Carver's latest foray is in speaker design: Like the high-enders, he loved the spacious, realistic sound of ribbon speakers, but wasn't so pleased with their shortcomings.

The result, for some \$1800 a pair, is finished in polished black wood, again with gold accents. Though ribbon speakers are supposedly short on bass, Carver's version provides it, in spades, and totally realistic, without a trace of boominess. Hearing the speaker with a variety of electronics and source material, I was impressed with its open, expansive yet natural sound.

If you can live with some of its limitations (it still needs a healthy dose of power, but Carver's amplifiers can provide that, and it takes a bit of time to break in the ribbon drivers to reach their full potential), you will have a loud-speaker system capable of producing amazing results—which, by the way, is what Carver calls his speaker—“The Amazing Loudspeaker.”

And though some high-end products—which are usually produced in small quantities by small firms—are rather finicky in terms of reliability, dealers tell me the Carver line, as a whole, is amazingly (there's that word again) reliable.

It's enough to make the high-end audio fanatics hide their heads in shame.

—Gene Steinberg

*Caveat Emptor* editor Gene Steinberg is himself an audio freak. He began assembling electronic kits as a teenager and has remained avidly interested in high quality sound ever since. He has also studied music and voice. His current reference system consists of mid-1970's solid state electronics (Dynaco), a Dual turntable fitted with a Grado pickup, two Sony CD players (one a “walkman-style” portable), and a Fisher cassette tape deck. His latest purchase is a speaker system from Cambridge Sound-Works, known as “The Ensemble.” It consists of two small units (“satellites”) that provide the upper bass, mid-range and high frequencies, and two larger units (“sub-woofers”) for the lower bass.

This article was triggered by the author's extensive search for a new audio system.



## Culture Corner:

# A new UFO magazine, two TV shows and other delights

### UFO UNIVERSE

*Edited by Timothy Green Beckley.*

*Published by Condor Books, Inc.,*

*354 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019.*

*Single Copy Price: \$2.95*

Veteran readers of *Caveat Emptor* and *Saucer News* through the years will recall that I have been none-too-kind to Tim Beckley's writings, but I do have to admire him for his persistence. He's been a successful writer and editor and publisher on things paranormal for some 25 years now and it may be that he's just grown on me. Or maybe I've become mellower with age. Whatever the reason, I find very little to criticize about his latest venture, *UFO Universe*.

Beckley's not the publisher this time; he's just a hired hand. So he has to answer to a higher authority. But the magazine he's putting together is just about the best newsstand publication on UFOs to come down the pike in a long time. It's true some might be put off a bit by the splashy covers. They're somewhat overdone, but quite necessary in order to get one's attention on the crowded newsstand. But Beckley takes a remarkably even-handed approach to the subject. *UFO Universe* is thankfully short on the latest messages from the likes of "Ramtha" and others of his ilk.

Instead, there is a fascinating cross-section of UFO sightings and speculation. We must remember that Beckley is not directing his magazine to the seasoned UFOlogist. There are a host of magazines that one can purchase through the mail or at bookstores (such as the worthy *UFO* magazine) that serve that purpose quite well. *UFO Universe* is dedicated to the casual

reader who cut his/her teeth on UFO lore in supermarket tabloids such as *The National Enquirer* and others better left unmentioned, and is now seeking something more substantial.

The recent November, 1988 issue, for example, provided a wealth of food for thought.

Among other things, there was a rare interview with Major Dewey Fournet, a former staffer at the Air Force's notorious Project Blue Book in the early 1950's. Fournet became famous among hardened UFO buffs through Major Donald Keyhoe's various books.

Fournet reveals the little-known fact that it was he who told his friend Major Keyhoe that the Board of Governors of NICAP—the legendary UFO group of the 1950's and 1960's—had decided that Keyhoe was to be ousted as director. It seems that Keyhoe's constant penchant to concentrate on possible government conspiracies instead of the pursuit of the truth behind the UFO enigma—and his inability to get NICAP's financial house in order—finally resulted in his downfall.

Another article, from newcomer Mike Grosso, is a cogent commentary on the possible symbolisms behind alleged alien abductions. The article is a must-read for anyone who naively believes that such abductions can only be an attempt by actual aliens to examine earthlings. As I have said in *Caveat Emptor* and elsewhere through the years, one must be open to other possibilities too, possibilities that might represent a closer approximation of the truth.

*UFO Universe*, unfortunately, doesn't have a million-dollar advertising and promotion budget and seldom gets the

newsstand display it deserves. But it is nationally distributed, and it's worth a trip to several newsstands in order to find it. For now, subscriptions are not being accepted, but we hope the publishers will consider this possibility if circulation continues to build. In the meantime, you can order back issues.

We can say that *UFO Universe* is a worthwhile general-interest magazine on UFOs. We hope it succeeds.

—Gene Steinberg

• • •

### UFO COVER-UP? LIVE

*Hosted by Mike Farrel.*

*Nationwide TV broadcast.*

*October 14, 1988.*

### WHO MURDERED JFK?

*Hosted by Jack Anderson.*

*Nationwide TV broadcast.*

*November 2, 1988.*

This may seem an odd juxtaposition, since the assassination of John F. Kennedy in 1963 was most assuredly *not* a paranormal phenomenon. Or at least such a theory hasn't received any serious attention, to my knowledge (though I'm sure someone can find such a reference somewhere).

But the superficial resemblances between the UFO enigma and the death of JFK are nonetheless fascinating. In both situations, there are strong indications of a government coverup, and strong motives for wanting the public at large to be kept in the dark about the true implications of each.

In the case of UFOs, there is naturally the fear of a panic or disruption of governments and financial markets if the truth were known that the Earth was being visited by highly advanced



beings from another world with unknown motives.

As for JFK's death, it was necessary for President Johnson to take complete control of the reigns of government during his early days in office, and the possibility of a conspiracy by either domestic organized crime elements or an unknown foreign power would surely have caused a worldwide crisis.

I am not about to say whether these possibilities are real. That would take up quite a bit more space than I can devote in this short review, and besides I doubt that the real answers can be found at this point.

The purpose of this review is to compare the two programs and how well each succeeded in its intentions.

In terms of production, there was little or no contest.

Mike Farrel, an actor known as one of the co-stars of the *M\*A\*S\*H* TV series some years back, plays the role of narrator of *UFO Cover-up? Live*, and he doesn't do badly, but he's no Walter Cronkite. His questions and the answers by the various guest experts appeared scripted. It takes a trained newsman to read such scripts convincingly, as I can attest from my personal experience as a broadcaster. While a gifted actor might do as well in a controlled environment, dealing with a live program and its attendant complications is something else again.

As for the guests, again there was no contest. The participants ranged from such UFO notables as Stanton Friedman and William Moore to a host of UFO eyewitnesses—and even a couple of scientists from the Soviet Union who have purportedly participated in UFO research behind the Iron Curtain. Friedman has been a lecturer and talk show guest for years, and he handles himself well. Some of those eyewitnesses, however, were embarrassingly bad.

There was no reason to force these relative amateurs to stumble over scripted or teleprompter copy on a live broadcast. It would have served everyone better to have them interviewed in advance, and allowed to describe their UFO encounters in their own words, at

their leisure. The taped highlights of those interviews could have been used on the show. That way the sincerity of witness or lack thereof would have been allowed to come through.

In contrast, Jack Anderson, a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter, has been a broadcaster for years. His delivery is brisk and professional. Rather than marching back and forth across the set as Farrel did to move the show along, Anderson remained at his anchor desk and allowed his guests, vintage news footage and re-enactments of key elements of his story provide the action.

*UFO Cover-up? Live*, despite its awkwardness, did provide an interesting glimpse into some of the hot issues of modern UFO lore, such as "MJ-12" and the abduction question. A fairly even-handed summary of the "Gulf Breeze" sightings were presented, along with pro and con analyses of the controversial "Mr. Ed" photos.

Two of William Moore's alleged military sources were on hand, with faces clothed in shadow, and voices electronically altered to hide their true identities. The two men, code-named "Falcon" and "Condor," supposedly had high intelligence-related positions in the military and were privy to the true facts behind the "MJ-12" documents.

Both claimed the notorious documents were authentic, and that the government did indeed recover aliens from a crashed UFO some 40 years ago.

Of course, when one's sources must remain shrouded in secrecy, and when their revelations can't be verified by anyone else, the truth behind it all just can't be proven at this stage.

In the case of *Who Murdered JFK?*, Anderson, an intimate participant in assassination investigations for over 20 years, presents a convincing portrait of botched CIA attempts to kill Cuba's Fidel Castro, and the purported retaliation against JFK by Cubans working in concert with organized crime figures with a grudge against the Kennedy brothers.

The culprits had motive: Castro allegedly sought revenge against JFK for the assassination attempts. Organized crime allegedly helped elect

JFK by manipulating votes in Illinois and elsewhere. When both John and Robert Kennedy went after the Mafia with a vengeance, it was decided that JFK had to go.

Lee Harvey Oswald, the alleged assassin, was pictured as a patsy set up by the conspirators to be at the wrong place at the wrong time. His death at the hands of Jack Ruby—who was rumored to be a small-time organized crime figure—was almost too convenient to be true. Ruby died in jail some years later without revealing the full story, and many others intimately connected with the whole affair also died in the years following the murder of JFK.

Anderson does not deal with the question of any relationship between all this and the killing of Senator Robert Kennedy in 1968. The troubles that kept sole surviving brother Senator Edward Kennedy from being taken seriously as a presidential contender are also left alone.

But perhaps we cannot ignore some of these other footnotes of history that were also omitted from the program.

In the 1970's, former New Orleans district attorney James Garrison made a media splash when he claimed to have new evidence about the assassination. After long months of speculation and denial—and frankly quite a bit of skepticism that it was anything but a sideshow, an indictment came down.

A New Orleans busienssman, one Clay Shaw, was tried as being a part of a conspiracy to murder JFK. An odd assortment of witnesses were called by Garrison to prove his case. One of them, in fact, played a small part in UFO lore.

That person was Fred Crisman, who, along with Harold Dahl, were the witnesses of the infamous Maury Island (Washington) UFO back in 1947. The Maury Island case, if some of our readers haven't heard, involved an unknown craft that was wobbling rapidly and appeared about to crash. After dropping large quantities of a metallic substance, the unknown managed to regain altitude and soon sped away.

The sighting was investigated by UFO legend Kenneth Arnold. The af-



termath of the case is steeped in controversy. Two military intelligence officers, who came to investigate and collect some of that strange metal, died in a plane crash shortly after leaving for their home base. Arnold nearly crash landed his plane.

How Crisman came to be connected with an investigation of the JFK assassination isn't altogether clear. Some say Crisman was one of the three alleged hobos photographed in 1963 in Dallas, near the scene of the killing. It is also alleged that another of these men was none other than E. Howard Hunt of Watergate fame. It should be said that Hunt denies he was anywhere near Dallas at the time. We haven't heard what Crisman has to say.

Where the truth lies isn't known. Shaw was acquitted of the conspiracy charge, and Garrison gradually faded from public view.

A congressional committee investigated the assassination some years later. In a 1979 report, they concluded that a probable conspiracy was indeed involved, contrary to the Warren Commission report. The identity and motives of the supposed conspirators was left unsolved.

All of these tales lie on a foundation of speculation. The hard evidence that the conspiracy theory is true may only be found in documents on the JFK assassination that will remain sealed by the government for years to come.

Like UFOs, the death of John Fitzgerald Kennedy is destined to be written about, argued over—and remain unsolved.

—Gene Steinberg

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## DANCING IN THE LIGHT

By Shirley MacLaine.

Bantam Books, New York, 1985.

If you've enjoyed Shirley MacLaine's earlier books, here's more of the same—another chapter in the continuing saga of her spiritual quest. The book is written with the sort of directness and naive sincerity that we usually reserve for personal conversations, and the result is an almost embarrassingly in-

timate glimpse into the author's life and thoughts.

We are taken through a verbatim session of arguments between Shirley's aging parents, obviously held for the benefit of her and her daughter, Sachi. Reminiscences lead to a play-by-play account of Shirley's affair with Vassi, a mad Russian film director who had been obsessed with her for 12 years. His attempts to contact her in the past had been successfully fielded by a zealous secretary, but all his actresses looked and moved like Shirley MacLaine. Needless to say, all the above characters proved to have known one another in past lives, in a dizzying configuration of circumstances.

Along with the usual channeling sessions, this book includes a past-life regression which MacLaine experiences under the guidance of a lady named Chris, who uses gold acupuncture needles in the chakras (energy centers of the body) to induce recall. MacLaine finally meets her Higher Self (an exotically attractive male!) and is soon calling him "H.S." (When my husband Jim went for a channelled reading and asked what he should call his own Higher Self, the reply was: "Call it anything you like—but don't call it Margaret!")

Chris gives Shirley such advice as: "If we taught our children that they chose us as parents, the child would learn early on to take more responsibility for his fate.... He can't legitimately blame the parent for his situation, whatever it might be. A damaged child chose to experience that."

However, observant folks may have noticed that it is *parents* who choose to have children, rather than the other way 'round, and children are abused more often because of their *parents'* bad karma, rather than their own. Reincarnation is too often used as an excuse for disengagement from the real world—if the Ethiopians *choose* to experience starvation in this lifetime, who are we to interfere? But a survey of history will show that often individuals and whole nations suffer from "bad karma" generated by *other* people! Admittedly, I can't remember what I was up to in my own past life; I

can't afford sessions with gold acupuncture needles.

Shirley MacLaine was also advised that "All body pain is nothing but unresolved, unreleased karmic impurity." I think Will Rogers said it better when he noted that "Your foot will never get better while the horse is standing on it!"

Touchingly sincere as Shirley MacLaine obviously is, it seems a shame for such inquiring spirits to be seeking the root causes of world events in past lives, when we need all hands on deck if this planet is to be set back on course. Whether we have, in fact, led past lives does not change the quality of *this* one. And what's with the exorbitant prices for weekend seminars? I suppose, in MacLaine's celebrity world, they'd say an evolved spirit could easily generate that kind of money, but I suspect such a one might not *need* a weekend seminar on spirituality!

With all their glitter and diversity, MacLaine's "spiritual" experiences seem to be leading to a cult of "transcendental acquisition." MacLaine apparently equates psychic abilities with spiritual development, but what I have seen suggests that "channeling" is an acquired skill which involves considerably less discipline than the art of motorcycle maintenance! But maybe if I had \$400 for a seminar, I'd come to see the error of my thinking.

Shirley MacLaine is trying so hard that I really would like to say something gentle and kind about her books. They do manage to capture the spirit of 20th Century "New Age" philosophy as it is being marketed to the masses, and will probably be an invaluable reference to future historians. MacLaine is always entertaining (that *is* her profession!), and her story has the potential to help us learn to accept the improbable lifepaths chosen by some of our fellow humans... perhaps even some of our own family! Our minds are opened up to new possibilities in the process.

Now, if you'll take a walk with me down by the Forestry Building, I'd like to tell you about this Bridge....

—Geneva Hagen

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## **Newswatch:**

# **The six forces of nature, some new planets, Convention Roundup, and more**

### **THE FOUR FORCES OF NATURE... WOULD YOU BELIEVE SIX FORCES OF NATURE?**

It has long been axiomatic in science that many of the basic laws of reality were known, and that further knowledge would only enhance our understanding of these forces, not add to them.

It has also been axiomatic in science that new knowledge frequently renders prior knowledge obsolete.

So it perhaps did not come as too much of a surprise to learn of the results of a series of experiments conducted by scientists working at the Arctic icecap in Greenland. A *Los Angeles Times* science report told of a new study last year pointing to perhaps six fundamental laws of nature.

Up till now, it was assumed that the basic laws of nature included gravity, electromagnetism and the strong and weak forces that hold atoms together.

It all began back in 1986, when an apparent "fifth force" was first observed. According to physicist Ephraim Fischbach of Purdue University, this newly discovered force apparently works against gravity at distances of less than 600 feet. So it would seem likely that a feather might at times descend more rapidly than a lead weight.

If that wasn't enough to upset the apple cart, U.S. Air Force investigators were researching gravity too. Their study centered along the side of a large TV tower in North Carolina. Last December, they observed evidence of a sixth force as well. This force acted over greater distances than the fifth force. The new force is said to be anywhere from 1.5% to 4% as strong as gravity and is in effect over distances

from 1,600 to 5,500 feet.

On the other side of the world, tests a mile below the polar icecap have tended to corroborate both theories.

And what are the practical results of this discovery? If confirmed by further research, it would make it necessary to refigure the masses of planets and stars, not to mention the mass and approximate age of the universe.

At the very least, the Arctic research team just didn't expect it. Mark Ander, of the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico ruefully commented: "We tried like hell to make it go away, but it just wouldn't."

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### **NEW EVIDENCE FOR THE ETH?**

The conventional (if unproven) wisdom in UFO research is that the strange discs in the skies are sent here by an intelligent race from another planet.

Unfortunately, lacking proven hardware to examine, one has had to rest on faith in the belief that there is another planet out there that has spawned a highly advanced alien race. Our limited forays into our own solar system have shown no evidence that any other planet in this system is capable of supporting such life.

So we've had to look elsewhere. But with the vast distances involved, elsewhere has rested on speculation, until now, that is.

According to the *Associated Press*, as many as 10 possible planets have been located spinning around distant stars. The study was made by U.S. and Canadian astronomers, and reported on August 3, 1988 before the International Astronomical Union assembly.

To go even further, Bruce Campbell, chief of the Canadian team, suggests that as many as half the stars in the Milky Way galaxy may have planets. He goes on to suppose this to be "a sign that there are also Earth-like planets suitable for life, but we have no evidence of that at all."

So far, the planets that have been reported seem far too large to support life as we know it.

The planets, of course, weren't actually seen in the way one would observe a star in the sky. They are too far away for that.

Instead, scientists employed a phenomenon known as the "red shift," in which light from a distant celestial object will change color if the object is moving. It would become more red if moving away, and range toward blue if coming closer to the observer. Scientists measured the shift, looking for evidence of a wobble or movement of the stars. That motion would have to be caused by a nearby celestial body's gravitational force. So, by inference, the movement is caused by a planet perhaps orbiting that star.

It would seem, though, to be an incredible leap of logic to suggest that any of these possible planets provide the source for the UFO phenomenon. In fact, the late Ray Palmer, a noted UFO philosopher, suggested years ago that residents of another planet might even have their own UFO mystery to contend with.

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### **THE EARTH REVOLVES AROUND WHERE?**

It was over 450 years ago that Coper-



nicus established that the Earth revolves around the sun. But a lot of Americans think the opposite.

"On very basic ideas, vast numbers of Americans are scientifically illiterate." So says Jon Miller of Northern Illinois University.

Miller's brash statement isn't just a guess. It's based on a carefully drawn telephone survey involving 2,041 adults. The survey this past summer was sponsored by the National Science Foundation, and included some 75 science-related questions.

According to an Associate Press report on October 24th, 21 percent of the respondents thought the sun revolved around the Earth. Another seven percent had no answer at all.

And it gets worse. Although 72 percent knew the Earth revolved around the sun, only 45 percent of these folks replied correctly that it took a year to complete the process. Seventeen percent thought it took a day, and two percent answered a month. The remaining nine percent just didn't know.

This all means that 94 million people in this country alone couldn't answer such a basic scientific question.

It's no wonder that a lot of the so-called "scientific" UFO researchers are anything but.

• • •

### WHY ET CAN'T PHONE HOME

Efforts to search for intelligent radio signals from outer space came to a crashing halt in a mass of crumpled steel on November 15th. That's when the third largest radio telescope in the world, located in Green Bank, West Virginia, collapsed without warning.

Scientists at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory are at a loss to explain why the 300-foot telescope suddenly fell apart. Berkeley professor Daniel Werthimer, according to *New York Newsday*, said it "was a world-class telescope."

A radio telescope resembles nothing more than an oversized satellite dish, and serves a very similar function. Hooked up to a mass of complex, computerized radio receivers, the telescope scans the skies in search of

some evidence of intelligent life beyond earth.

The range is estimated at up to 10 billion light years away, which means that if "ET" really wanted to phone home, it will take eons for the signal to get there. The device was a key factor in a two-year hunt for signs of extraterrestrial life.

How long it will take to rebuild the radio telescope isn't certain yet. According to Werthimer, "So far, there's just been a sort of shock."

• • •

### CONVENTION ROUNDUP: I GO TO SEE THE NATIONAL UFO CONFERENCE

By Gene Steinberg

The weather was unusually warm for a late summer day. A malfunctioning air conditioning system did little to alleviate the feeling of pervasive stuffiness. Despite the surface discomfort, however, one couldn't help feeling a bit of *deja vu*.

It was 24 years ago that I braved a ten hour drive with Jim Moseley and others to travel from New York to Cleveland to attend my first National UFO Conference.

It was the second convention to be held in Cleveland. The first was held on June 20, 1984, only then it bore the unwieldy name of "Congress of Scientific UFOlogists." The founders of the convention, Allen Greenfield and Rick Hilberg, were barely out of their teens then, and perhaps one could forgive such a pretentious title.

The convention has since traveled from coast to coast. The editors of *Caveat Emptor* sponsored it in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania back in 1974.

But its home has always been Cleveland, and it was fitting that the silver anniversary was held there. At the same time, it may be the last time, since the convention sponsors seemed overwhelmed by the vast amount of work and preparation such a venture entails. No one ever really makes money on these events; usually there's a loss. It's indeed a labor of love, and love can only go so far when one is consumed

by exhaustion.

A full house at the two sessions alleviated the feeling of despair, however. And very few seemed to mind much that the air conditioner wasn't up to stuff.

The speakers, for the most part, placed themselves four-square in the middle of the major controversies of modern UFO research in the waning days of this decade.

Dr. Willy Smith, a colleague of the late Dr. J. Allen Hynek, delivered a blistering attack on the "Gulf Breeze" case. The infamous "Mr. Ed" photos were singled out for careful scrutiny. In a long and rambling presentation, Smith cited chapter and verse of the reasons why these photos were palpable fakes.

Smith admitted, though, that he was working from copies. He blamed MUFON stalwart, Dr. Bruce Maccabee, who has also analyzed these photos (and pronounced them authentic). Smith claimed Maccabee wouldn't send him the original pictures, but he pressed on anyway.

Smith displayed a number of the photos, which were supposedly taken with a fixed-focus Polaroid camera. Smith commented that anything photographed from a distance of five feet or more should be in focus. Despite this, the trees in the distance on some of the pictures were blurry. The UFO itself, whatever it may have been, was relatively clear.

Of course, this doesn't mean that Gulf Breeze is a fraud, but serious doubts have been raised, and we look forward to further findings on both sides of the question.

Another featured speaker was John P. Timmerman, of the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS). Timmerman brought along the Center's famous UFO display, and confined his lecture to a brief overview of the UFO enigma.

Other speakers included James W. Moseley, the convention chairman, Tim Beckley, Tom Benson, Ed Biebel, Lawrence Blazey, Richard Dell'Aquila, Antonio Huneeus, Ron Schaffner and Charles Wilhelm.

Beckley, by the way, received the Conference's annual "UFOlogist of the





**Klark Kent (without his glasses) pauses to promote his mail order business before rushing to a phone booth.**



**John P. Timmerman, Vice President for Publicity, Center for UFO Studies, at the 25th National UFO Conference in Cleveland.**

Year" award. Such luminaries as Gray Barker, Dr. J. Allen Hynek and Pete Mazzola were added to the convention's "Honor Roll."

But for many of those who attended, the 25th annual National UFO Conference was a social occasion, somewhat like a high school reunion. It was

a time to talk with old friends again, catch up on gossip and make some new friends.

In 1989, the convention will move cross-country, to the "valley of the sun," Phoenix, Arizona.

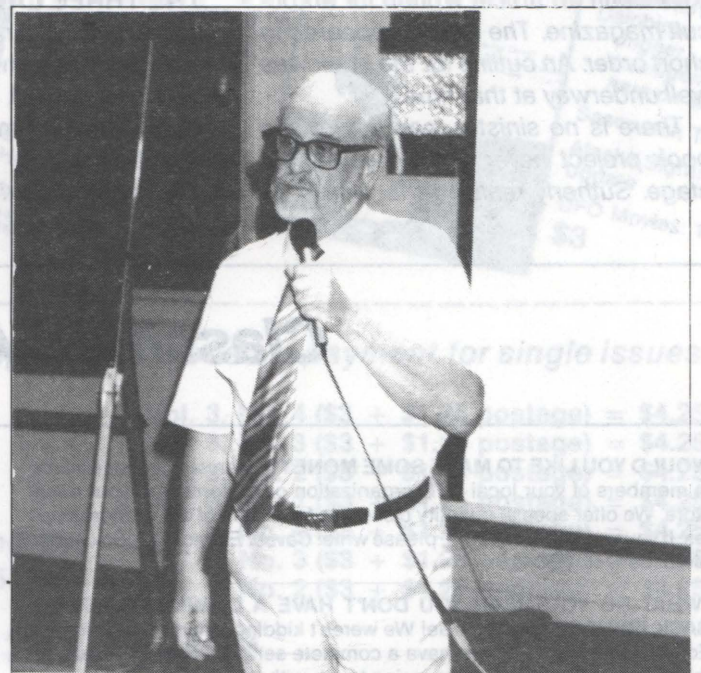
Although the list hasn't been finalized, featured speakers are expected

to include (in alphabetical order so as not to bruise egos): Marge Christensen, Vicki Cooper, William Moore, Brad Steiger and Traci Torme.

We have not received any information on the 1989 MUFON convention, but we will announce that too as soon as details are received.

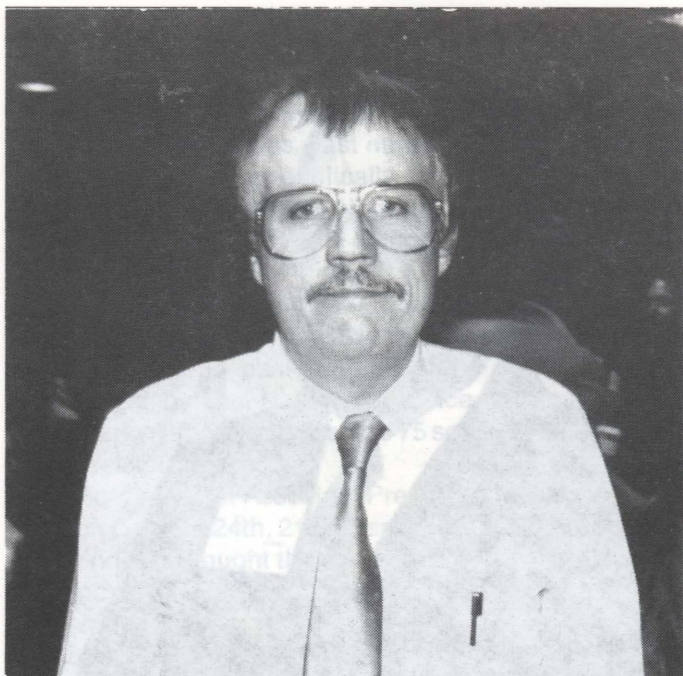


**Chairman Jim Moseley presents Tim Beckley with the "UFOlogist of the Year" award.**



**Dr. Willy Smith highlights one of his main arguments against the "Gulf Breeze" UFO photos.**





**Veteran researcher Rick Hilberg, co-founder of the National UFO Conference.**



**Bob Easley, a convention sponsor and editor of *Flying Saucer Digest*.**

**Editor's Note:** In 1976 Curt Sutherly and Gene Steinberg briefly attempted to write a book on UFOs and related mysteries. The main focus was the possibility that such phenomena was proof positive that an alternate reality existed in perhaps the same space as our own reality, but beyond the limits of our senses.

The preamble of the book was to have been an article written for an occult magazine. The article appeared in short order. An outline for the book was well underway at that time.

There is no sinister reason why the book project never went beyond that stage. Sutherly realized that freelance

writing on the strange and unknown was at best a precarious way to make a living, and became a newspaper reporter instead. Steinberg—perhaps with a bad taste in his mouth from some of the problems he faced when *Caveat Emptor* folded—also gave it all up.

But the small blurb Curt wrote for the book is surely food for thought. So we therefore present, 12 years later,

#### **THE THREE LAWS OF REALITY**

The first law: Anything that is conceivable of happening within the existing universe, will ultimately happen—but within a limited framework of perception.

The second law: As a result of the

process called learning, the framework of perception and belief must expand within the consciousness of the mind, thereby enabling the physical concept of reality to expand and change.

The third law: The expansion and alteration of the physical concept of reality can only lead to a still greater sequence of occurrence within the existing universe. This, in turn, must inevitably result in further growth of the framework of perception and belief, thus reinforcing both the first and second laws of reality and thereby maintaining the cycle.

In this way, the universe is maintained.  
—Curt Sutherly

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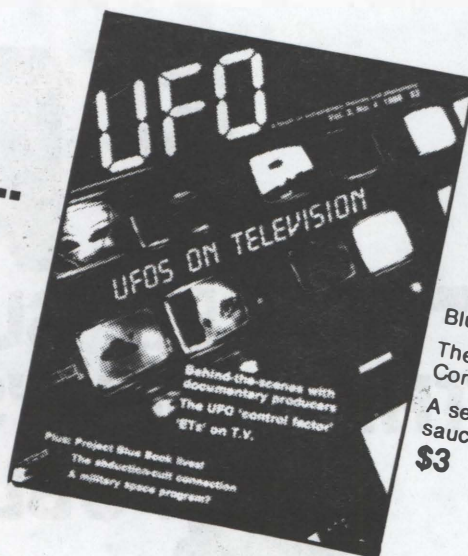
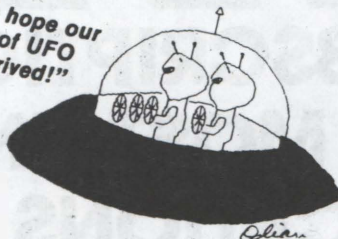


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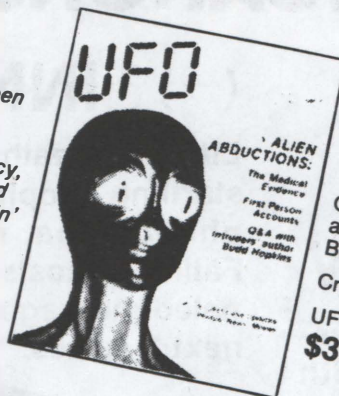
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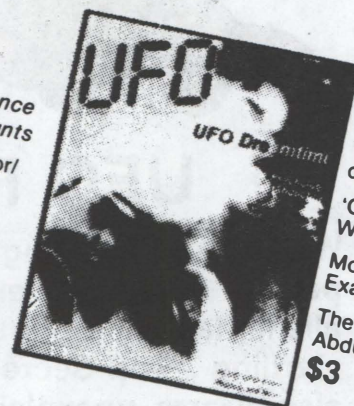
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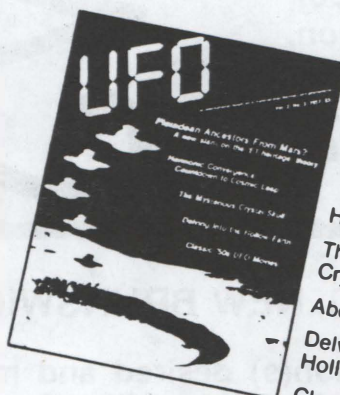


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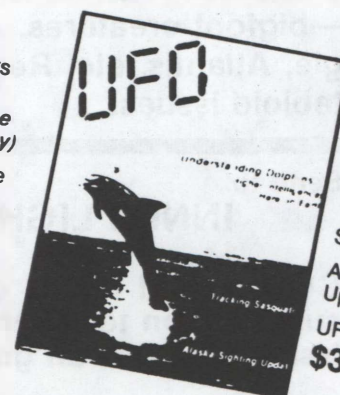


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